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Registered as a Newspaper

No. 3205
VOL. CXXXV

JULY 12, 1941

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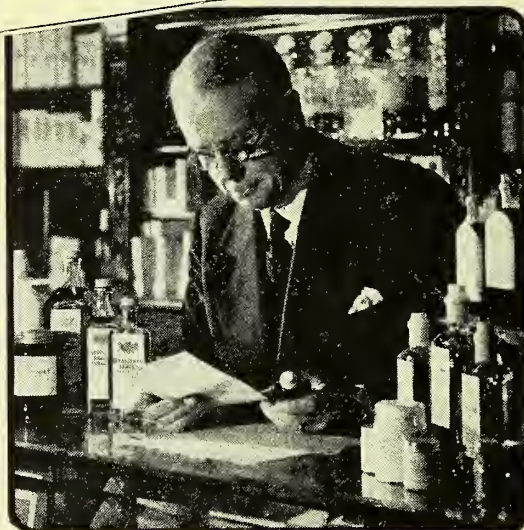
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See "A" List, July 1st, 1941.

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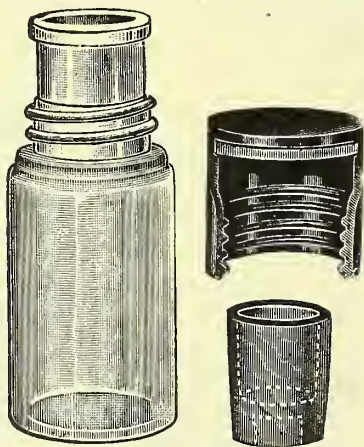
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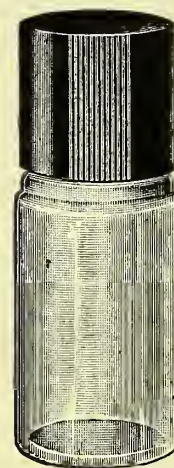
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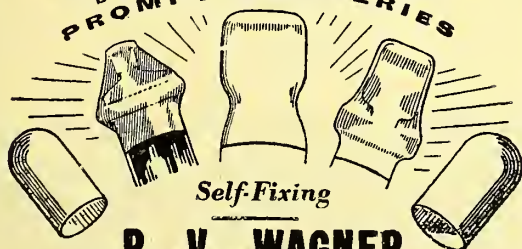
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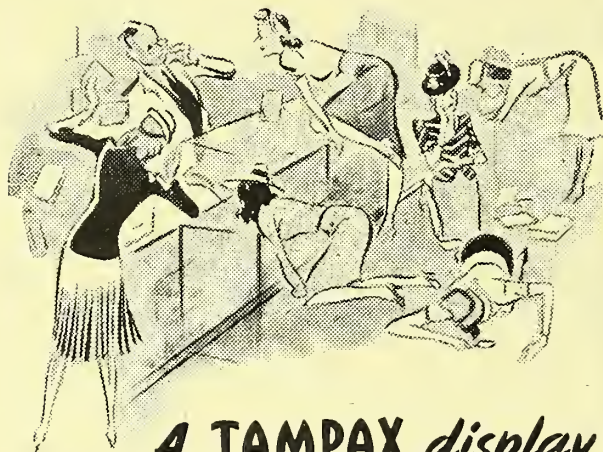
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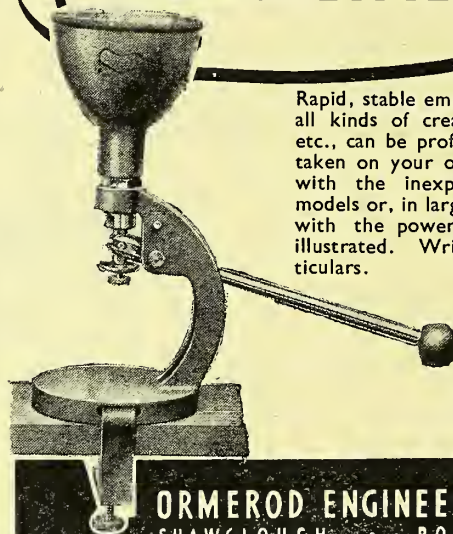
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PER HOUR

"OOO"
STEAM
2 GALLONS
PER HOUR

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STEAM
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PER HOUR

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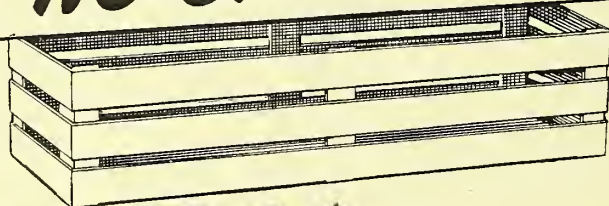
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† Dr. Thompson's Dandelion Coffee	1/1½	17/6
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† Dr. Thompson's Slippery Elm Food, Wholemeal, 1-lb.	2/3	20/-
† Dr. Thompson's Slippery Elm and Honey, ½-lb.	1/-	8/-
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† Dr. Buchanan's Skin Clear Soap	11d.	6/-
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* Kasbah Kidney Cure	1/1½	7/6
* Neo-Lific Food	1/5	10/6
* Neo-Lific Food	2/9½	20/-
* Neo-Lific Food, 1-lb. Tins	5/-	36/-
* Sciargo Sciatica Herbs	1/8	11/-
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* Hedakene (30 Powders)	3/1	25/-
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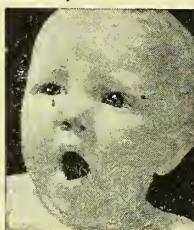
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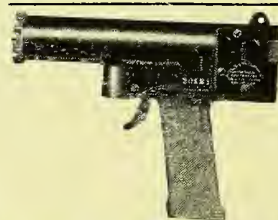
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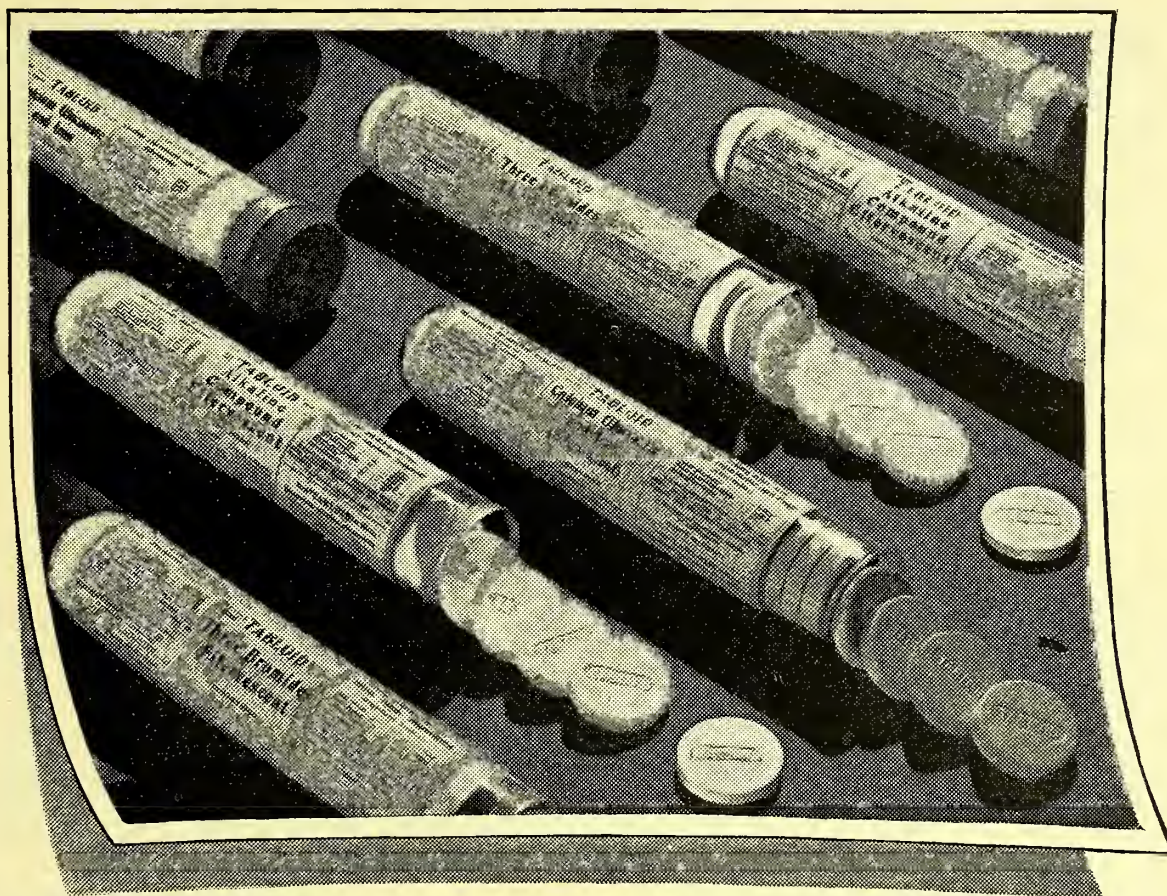
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NEWS OF THE WEEK

Honey Prices to be Controlled.—The Ministry of Food announces that the prices of the new season's production of honey are to be controlled after consultation with bee-keepers and distributors.

Biscuit Manufacturers to be Licensed.—Under the Biscuits (Licensing and Control) Order, 1941, no person or undertaking shall from August 4 engage in the manufacture of biscuits, rusks or crispbreads, as defined by the Order, unless licensed by the Ministry. "Biscuits," as defined in the Order, do not include medicinal biscuits (other than diabetic biscuits).

Inquests.—On July 2 the South Staffs coroner adjourned until July 30 an inquest on Edith Williams, M.P.S., Nos Mas, Egginton Road, Wollaston, who on June 29 received fatal injuries while sitting in a stationary car. Mr. George Williams, solicitor, Quinton, a brother, gave formal evidence of identification, and Dr. H. L. Brewer, resident surgeon of the hospital, said that death was due to a fractured skull and laceration of the brain.—At Bath, recently, a verdict of accidental death was returned at an inquest on Alice C. Reeves, Freshford, who took a teaspoonful of ammonia in mistake for a medicine.

Caustic Potash and Potassium Carbonate.—The Minister of Supply has made the Control of Caustic Potash and Carbonate of Potash (No. 3) Order, 1941, amending the No. 2 Order already in force. The new Order prohibits the production of soft or liquid soap containing caustic potash or carbonate of potash except under licence or direction issued by the Minister of Supply. This Order, which came into force on July 7, applies both to existing stocks and to material which may thereafter be acquired. Direction No. 1 under the Control of Caustic Potash and Carbonate of Potash (Nos. 2 and 3) Orders, 1941, provides for certificates issued by the following approved Associations to be accepted in place of licences issued by the Ministry for the purchase and use of caustic potash and carbonate of potash: Association of British Chemical Manufacturers, British Flint Glass Manufacturers' Association, Glass Manufacturers' Federation and the Soap Makers' and Fat Splitters' Federation. Copies of the Order and Direction may be obtained (price 1d.) from H.M. Stationery Office, York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, or through any bookseller.

Leeds Employers and Employees Hold Joint Meeting.—A joint meeting of Leeds branch of the National Pharmaceutical Union with the district branch of the Association of Pharmaceutical Employees held recently was presided over by Miss F. Cousin (chairman and secretary, N.P.U. branch). The meeting was the outcome of consultation between subcommittees of the two bodies, aiming at closer collaboration. MR. M. JACKSON (a member of the national Executive, A.P.E.) urged that it was more necessary than ever that employees should take greater interest in the activities of the Pharmaceutical Society and the A.P.E. Employers and employees had a great asset in common, i.e. the qualification. Pharmacists, he suggested, must re-value their services to ensure a reasonable return. All must realise that pharmacy was not the sole prerogative of the proprietor-pharmacist, but employees must recognise that they too had obligations. MR. T. HESELTINE (N.P.U. Executive) followed with an address on the Chemists' Friends scheme which, he felt, should be particularly appreciated by employees for the benefit it brought to their calling. The scheme had been very successful up to date, but still greater benefits would be secured by active support from employees. MR. W. F. KEMP (a past-chairman of Leeds N.P.U. and Pharmaceutical Society branches) pointed out that success in co-operation was entirely dependent on the effectiveness of organisation in both sections. MR. MITCHELL stated that the

establishment of conditions leading to higher remuneration for employees would similarly be beneficial to proprietors. MR. H. HODGSON (a past-chairman, Leeds Pharmaceutical Society Branch) agreed it was necessary for employees to take a great interest in their profession and moved "That Leeds Branch of the N.P.U. will continue to co-operate wholeheartedly with Leeds Branch of the Association of Pharmaceutical Employees."

Association of Pharmaceutical Employees.—At an all-London meeting of managers and staffs of Timothy Whites & Taylors, Ltd., on June 29, held in support of an application to the Company by the A.P.E. for minimum rates of pay and conditions of service, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "This all-London meeting of employees of Timothy Whites & Taylors, Ltd., reaffirms its wholehearted support to the Union in steps taken to secure voluntary agreement with the Company, and reiterates its determination to support the Union in such action as may become necessary in order to secure a satisfactory settlement."

The rates asked for are, for Branch managers (including relief managers), £6 in London and £5 15s. in the provinces, plus 2s. 6d. for each additional £10 of weekly trade or part thereof above £80; apprentices, first year, 25s. in London and 20s. in provinces; second year, 30s. and 25s.; third year, 35s. and 30s.; qualified assistants (including qualified relief assistants): First year after qualifying, £4 15s. in London and £4 10s. in provinces; second year, £5 2s. 6d. and £4 17s. 6d.; third year, £5 10s. and £5 5s.; unqualified assistants in drug departments (after apprenticeship) including relief assistants, first year after apprenticeship, £2 10s. in London and £2 5s. in provinces; graded up to £4 5s. and £4 in sixth year.

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh Chemists' Golf.—The annual bogey competition of the Edinburgh Chemists' Golf Club for the David Brown medal was held at Prestonfield on July 2, when twelve members took out cards. The results were: 1, W. E. Herd, four down; 2 (a tie), J. M. Foote; J. P. Gibb; and W. A. M. Hourston, six down.

Business Changes.—Mr. Alexander S. G. Bannerman, M.P.S., has acquired the business of chemist and druggist carried on by the late Mr. Alfred J. H. Saunders at 350B Duke Street, Dennistoun, Glasgow.—The pharmaceutical business carried on under the name of Matheson & Co., 85 Bruntsfield Place, and 16 Leven Street, Edinburgh, is to be sold as a going concern.

North British Branch Executive.—A meeting of the Executive of the North British Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society was held in Edinburgh on July 3, Mr. W. F. Hay in the chair. Messrs. William Fowlie Hay and James Innes were re-elected *Chairman* and *Vice-chairman* respectively. The following *Committees* were appointed: *General Purposes*: The chairman, vice-chairman, Messrs. Arthur, Beattie, Guthrie, Harley, Henry, Jack, Mair, Miller and Sutherland. *Nomination of Examiners*: The chairman, vice-chairman, Messrs. Arthur, Guthrie and Jack. *Education*: The chairman, vice-chairman, Messrs. Anderson, Arthur, Bennett, Culbert, Guthrie, Harley, Jack, Mackenzie, Mair, Milne and Ritchie. *Parliamentary*: The chairman, vice-chairman, Messrs. Arthur, Bennett, Culbert, Guthrie, Harley, Jack, Milne, Murray and Walker. *Centenary Building Fund*: The chairman, vice-chairman, Messrs. Bennett, Harley, Guthrie and Milne, and the Scottish Member of Council. A list of Divisional Secretaries for Scotland, for appointment by the Council for 1942, was submitted. Discussion took place on the Pharmacy and Medicines Bill.

TRADE MARK REGISTRATION REFUSED

THE Eire Controller of Patents and Trade Marks (Mr. E. A. Clery, B.L.) gave reserved judgment at the Patents Court, Merrion Square, Dublin, on July 4, in the matter of the opposition by Southalls of Ireland, Ltd., Henry Place, Dublin, to the application of Eugene MacMahon and Francis MacMahon, both pharmaceutical chemists, and trading as the Lilmar Manufacturing Co., Dublin, for the registration of the word "Santex" as the trade mark for sanitary towels. The opposition was lodged by Messrs. Southall on the grounds that the word so closely resembled their trade-mark "Celtex" as to be liable to deceive.

Giving judgment in favour of the petitioners, the Controller said this was a hearing to consider an objection lodged under Section 91 of the Industrial and Commercial Property (Protection) Act, 1927. The ground of opposition relied upon by the petitioners was that the trade mark "Santex" so nearly resembled the trade-mark "Celtex" as to be calculated to deceive. It appeared, went on the Controller, that the petitioners had an extensive business in Ireland, which was devoted almost exclusively to the manufacture and sale of sanitary towels, and that while they had several brands of these goods, a considerable bulk of their trade was then, and had been for many years, done under the mark "Celtex." A good deal of the evidence submitted, both orally and by way of declaration, was directed towards showing the unusual manner in which the business was conducted. Incidentally it was stated that the greater proportion of the business in the goods was done in drapery establishments. The evidence submitted, however, dealt only with the conditions obtaining in the chemists' trade, and as no evidence as to the drapery trade conditions was produced he could only assume that the methods and practice in the two trades did not differ materially. The evidence showed that there was a certain reticence on the part of purchasers as to the places where the goods were bought, or the people from whom they would purchase the goods. To meet this reticence it would appear that every effort was made by the manufacturers, and retailers to avoid all external identification of the goods when they were being handed to the purchaser, the goods being packed, labelled, and marketed in plain paper loosely bound with identification labels which were not gummed, or otherwise stuck to the parcel. It was averred on behalf of the petitioners, and not disputed by the respondents, that the sole object of leaving labels loose was to facilitate retailers in removing the identifying labels readily and without difficulty, while the use of plain labels avoided the necessity for the retailer having to re-wrap the goods. So far as the actual purchasing was concerned it would seem to be more or less generally the custom for retailers unobtrusively to

remove the loose label and deliver the plain packet unmarked and unidentifiable. He (the Controller) could not refrain from observing that these unusual methods adopted by all concerned were somewhat loose, if indeed they did not lend themselves to obvious abuse. Mr. Walker, who appeared for the petitioners, claimed that in view of these circumstances there was distinct risk of confusion or deception, pointing out that there were not available the usual safeguards for ensuring correctness. Mr. O'Leary, counsel for the respondents, argued that there was no similarity between the marks and that when compared phonetically it could not be held that there was any likelihood of any person, whether educated or otherwise, being confused or mistaken. He pointed out that no evidence of actual confusion had been submitted by the petitioners, and that his clients' goods could not be confused, or mistaken for "Celtex" products since the two products were put up in different and distinctive packets as to shape of packet and colour of label. He also contended that another ready means of distinguishing the two products lay in the fact that the "Celtex" mark was only used for towels of a soluble nature, while "Santex" was exclusively insoluble.

There could be very little doubt, went on the Controller, that the allegation of deception, or confusion was attributed to the peculiar nature of the trade and not to the mark *per se*. "We are here," declared the Controller, "dealing with what I might call from the trade mark point of view a unique trade, in which as I have already said there is necessarily a distinct risk of abuse. It is well established that the class of purchaser to whom the goods are sold, and the circumstances and conditions attending the offering for sale, and the sale are important considerations in determining whether or not one trade mark so nearly resembles another as to be likely to be confused therewith. It may well be that these marks differ so considerably that it might be possible that no confusion would result from their concurrent use if used under normal conditions, and in what I might call ordinary 'shop-window trade.' This is not enough, however, as I cannot disregard the strange conditions here obtaining, conditions so peculiar that special care must be taken by the Controller to safeguard the purchasing public from any additional risk of deception or confusion. Considered in this light, and applying well-established tests laid down by Lord Hershell. I am not satisfied that the concurrent use of "Santex" and "Celtex" would not give rise to a risk of confusion or deception. It follows that in my opinion the respondents have not discharged the onus which lies upon them as applicants for registration, accordingly I must decide to refuse to register the mark." The Controller allowed Messrs. Southall six guineas costs.

TOPICAL REFLECTIONS

Pharmacy and Medicines Bill.—The first point that strikes one on reading the text of the Pharmacy and Medicines Bill printed as a supplement to your last week's issue is that the Government is not allowing the trade much time for expressing any views on the three subjects with which it deals. According to daily Press reports, the second reading will have been taken in the House of Commons before your readers receive your present issue, leaving only the Committee stage and the procedure in the House of Lords as opportunities for possible amendments. The second part of the Bill, dealing with the prohibition of certain advertisements, is a simplified version of an agreed measure which in 1936 failed to obtain a second reading in the lower House; and it may be supposed that it will be passed without much comment. Regarding the first part, which drives a coach and four through parts of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act of 1933, there is more to be said. The method by which it confers a status on a new type of drug stores is ingenious. As a matter of abstract ethical propriety, pharmacists would welcome the extinction of such businesses. But in commerce as it exists to-day such extinction is not practical politics. Let us consider for a moment the case of a drug store falling into the market. The turnover, we will suppose, is found to be insufficient to justify acquiring the business as branch of a pharmacy and placing it under the control of a qualified manager. Would not the chemists of the town or district prefer that it should be purchased by one of their number and continued as a drug store of the new kind rather than that it should fall into the hands of an enterprising quack?

Recommended Medicines.—The most startling feature of the Bill is probably the insistence (Clause 6) on a declaration of the contents of the "active constituents" of recommended medicines. This may be a parting shot from the Commissioners of Customs and Excise in pursuance of their famous "declare or stamp" mandate of March 1, 1930; or it may be an innovation fathered by the

British Medical Association. We may suppose that the Commissioners will not be interested in the administration of the new Act except to the extent that excisable goods are used as medicines or as ingredients of medicines. Who will prosecute in contraventions of this part of the Act? I find no indication in the text of the Bill. Clause 7 (5), with its many anfractuositities (no lesser word will serve), continues, if I read it correctly, the right of non-declaration of formula for proprietors of existing secret remedies, and distinguishes between special and general or group trade marks.

Diminishing Profits.—Medical practitioners are beginning to find out (p. 7), as chemists in business found out years ago, that it is easier to get custom than to make a profit out of it. They are considering the effect of the introduction of a new class of National Health Insurance patients into their surgeries, and are realising that the resulting financial problem is likely to be somewhat difficult. The chemist stands to lose heavily by the change, as you point out. For both doctor and chemist the question is complicated by the fact that some patients dislike the N.H.I. system and cannot be persuaded that they are receiving treatment from a panel practitioner equal to that enjoyed by private patients. For this reason I have known a considerate employer ignore the existence of an employee's panel doctor in time of illness and pay out of his own pocket for treatment by another medical man or by more than one. Indeed, a correspondence between a panel practitioner and an employer on this point once came to my notice. I cannot tell how widespread the feeling is; but insurance patients have been known to ask a pharmacist to recommend and supply medicine for them while they were nominally under treatment "on the panel." I do not think, however, that this feature will count for much in the coming slump when the new class of panel patients is roped in: on the contrary, the case for a substantial increase in dispensing fees is clear.

Xrayser

OPINIONS ON THE PHARMACY AND MEDICINES BILL

IN response to an invitation to express their opinion on the Government's Pharmacy and Medicines Bill, we have received the following replies from trade organisations, manufacturers, wholesale distributors and pharmacists. See also pp. 18, 19 and Coloured Supplement xiii and xiv.

Mr. Harold E. Matthews, Ph.C., Bristol.—It is common knowledge that the Bill aims to enable the co-operative societies to override existing legislation. A consideration of the clauses with this in mind shows that it probably would achieve that object. The Bill creates a new class of authorised sellers of part II poisons, who may properly style themselves in terms of the Bill "authorised sellers of poisons as a side line." The premises may similarly be designated "registered for the sale of part II poisons as a side line." The preparation and packing of the drugs, medicines and part II poisons, comprising this strictly "side line" trade must take place on other premises than those registered for their sale, but no competence or qualifications is called for in the manufacture. It appears that a man and his wife or any other two separate legal entities can be the manufacturer and the retailer respectively, provided that separate premises are used for the two parts of the racket and no drugs are sold by retail at the packing premises. This will suit co-operative branches nicely, because the person carrying on the branch is not the wholesale co-operative company making up the goods. I cannot see how under the Bill a qualified chemist can operate branch drug businesses with unqualified management, but any other trader can introduce medicines as a side line by getting registration. The registration fee will bring revenue to the registrar. The work of the registrar will be increased and he will need an increased inspectorate to deal with greatly increased responsibilities. I hope he will contrive to make ends meet on his new duties. Presumably local authorities will continue to entitle all who apply to sell poisons in part II of the poisons schedule. The only deterrent to universal back-street trade in part II poisons appears to be the registration fee of one pound. Declaration of composition of proprietary medicines is overdue. But why not apply this principle to proprietary foods, cosmetics and general industrial proprietary products? Medicines are not nowadays the most flagrant secret ramp. No doubt quite other results than those intended will follow legislation on the lines of this Bill. I cannot see that it promises any advantage to pharmacists.

Mr. G. C. Crummack, Ph.C., Leeds.—Under section 1, (1) (a), or 1, (3) a post office or sub-post office should not be deemed part of the "predominant part of the business," or we shall have businesses made up of such post offices with a drug section attached, which would be inconsiderable compared with the volume of business done in the office. Under section 1 (4) a pharmacist in retail practice will not be able to supply packed drugs, bearing the address of his pharmacy, for sale at a shop where drugs and medical and surgical appliances are not a predominant part. He will thus not be able to have a branch shop (unqualified) selling his own packs. Section 2 (1), which gives power to prevent an undesirable person being admitted to the register, is most commendable. Under section 6 (1) does "prescribed" mean "by a registered medical practitioner, etc.," as in section 1 (10) definition of "dispensed"? Most probably not, as here the term "made up" is used, not the word "dispensed." Section 7 (1) (c) (ii) is useful as it sets a time limit to the sale of medicines (as defined later) by unauthorised persons. Section 7 (5) (c) (i) seems particularly harsh on those manufacturers or retailers who pack a series of B.P. or B.P.C. medicines such as chemical food, compound syrup of hypophosphites, etc., under a brand name. Apparently such a range will now be delimited to two in number. No one disputes that there are differing qualities in even B.P. or B.P.C. preparations, and it would seem unfair to the public to deny them the choice of particular brands. This latter and the definition of the word "prescribing" are the two main points, in my opinion, to be carefully watched.

Condry & Mitchell, Ltd.—The proposed widening of the scope of retail distribution appears to us to be so complicated that we are unable, at the moment, to surmise how manufacturers in general would be affected.

The proposed restrictions on advertising, in our view, do not go nearly far enough. The Bill rightly prohibits the advertising of any proprietary article as a cure for certain diseases. It does nothing, however, to curtail the activities of those advertisers who by making fantastic and grossly untruthful claims in connexion with minor ailments bring the whole proprietary article trade into disrepute.

A very large number of proprietary articles already have what purports to be their formula printed on the label. The owners of such articles will, therefore, presumably be unmoved by this clause

of the Bill. Other owners of proprietary articles, ourselves amongst the number, have never disclosed their formula, believing firmly that by so doing their trade mark rights would be jeopardised. The evidence given before a Select Committee of the House of Commons some thirty-five years ago showed this view to be well founded, and the legal judgments then quoted still stand.

Mr. R. G. Collins, M.P.S., Birkenhead.—As a pharmacist engaged in the retail trade, I welcome most of the Bill. Section 1 serves to put the brake on the activities of certain organisations rather than giving them the unfair advantages that had been expected in some quarters. Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 need no comment. Section 6 should insist on complete disclosure of formulas. The most disappointing part is section 7, which starts with good intentions and appears to offer something to us to take the place of the privilege we lose on the repeal of the medicine stamp duty, but paragraph 5 (c) appears to remove any advantages the other portions of this section give. If this paragraph is modified the Bill should be an advantage rather than otherwise.

Barclay & Sons, Ltd., London, E.C.4.—The Bill is in our opinion a logical development of the trend of legislation during recent years whereby further effort is made to assist the retail chemist who has suffered so much from outside and unqualified competition, but whether it is sufficiently strong to bring about the desired result remains to be seen.

From a public point of view section 3 (1) is good, but we are of the opinion that such diseases as deafness, catarrhal deafness, etc., should be included to prevent the exploitation of sufferers of these and other incurable complaints.

The net effect on the business of general wholesale chemists cannot be measured in advance.

Mr. Eirwyn Owen, M.P.S., Bangor.—The "co-ops." win this time. This is a natural trend of the last few years; the combines are out to compete more fully with the small man. Where the law safeguards the interests of the small man, the combines bring their big guns politically to blast away the small man's defences. The lack of interest shown by various branches of the National Pharmaceutical Union and the Pharmaceutical Society has been appalling, but this may be accounted for by the weak lead given them by the leaders at the top. When so many of the old leaders are associated with grocery combines, our defence is naturally weak. Mr. Lloyd George warned us years ago that we should clean our own doorstep. The agreement between the N.P.U., Society and the Proprietary Association, and which was taken as an excuse for this new Bill, seems to have been forgotten by the Government. It is heartening to see that the N.P.U. have formed a committee to deal with this "disclosure of formula" clause.

Mr. G. M. Garcia (Proprietary Association).—It is my opinion that the Pharmacy and Medicines Bill, introduced in the House of Commons by the Minister of Health, proposes reforms in our social legislation which have long been overdue. The super-imposition of purchase tax on medicine stamp duty had the unforeseen result of subjecting a number of widely used household remedies, including many preparations put up as "own remedies" by chemists without disclosure of formula, to double taxation at a rate far in excess of that imposed on goods classed as luxuries. This double taxation had created a situation which, in the words of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, "is perfectly impossible." Happily those parties primarily interested in this matter were successful in implementing the Chancellor's invitation, by submitting to him a reasonable solution of the problem in the form of an agreement concluded between the parties in question. By common consent it is acknowledged that the principles set forth in this agreement have been faithfully interpreted in Parliamentary language in Clause 7 of the Bill.

In the first place this clause gives statutory recognition to the chemist as the sole vendor of certain specified categories of articles recommended as medicines; for instance, the sale of all non-proprietary single chemical compounds and salines recommended for the treatment of ailments will be reserved to chemists and those persons specified in that clause. Further, the provisions of that clause effectively dispose of the fears entertained by many chemists that repeal of the medicine stamp duty would open the door to the sale by non-chemists of official as well as B.P.C. articles with recommendations for their use as medicinal agents.

The decision of the Minister of Health to include in the Bill provisions requiring the disclosure of the composition of all articles recommended as medicines, as well as the prohibition of advertisements of articles for the treatment of certain grave maladies, was never envisaged by the parties concerned. Nevertheless, I welcome

the action taken by the Minister in this regard as strengthening the purpose of the Bill from the point of view of the public interest. The compulsory disclosure of the composition of all medicines offered for sale—with the reservation provided for those supplied by chemists in "counter-prescribing"—will once and for all time abolish all "secret" remedies, thereby protecting the public from the wiles of unscrupulous vendors of quack medicines. Indeed, physicians, chemists and indentured apprentices, as I read the Bill, will be the only persons to enjoy the privilege of being entitled to supply "secret" remedies to the needs of a particular person. The prohibition of the advertising of remedies for such grave maladies as Bright's disease, etc., implements one of the provisions embodied in the Medical and Surgical Appliances (Advertisement) Bill, 1936, to which we had all agreed; indeed, this clause falls short of the standards in advertising voluntarily enforced upon its members by the Proprietary Association of Great Britain.

Mr. E. Skues, M.P.S., London, S.W.17.—Under present conditions I regret that I have not been able to find time to study the details of this Bill as closely as I should like—to understand it fully it must be studied in conjunction with other legislation which has a bearing on the matter. Clause 1 (i) (a) raises a point which will be very difficult to define: What is the "predominant part" of any business? Clause 6 (i) (a) seems to require a fuller definition of what is required—a "statement of composition" may be either too vague or too complicated to be of value. One could wish that the Bill went further in many respects but in view of vested interests and the complicated nature of previous legislation this may not be easy. On the whole I regard the Bill as a step forward, and in the public interest, if it is not weakened by amendments in its passage through Parliament.

Elliman, Sons & Co., Ltd.—We have very little to say as we do not know that the Bill calls for much, if any, adverse comment. So far as we are concerned we have always done the greater part of our trade through chemists and should expect always to do so, and in addition the profit made by retail chemists on most of our lines at their present prices compares quite favourably with any competitive article. As this company has always been the chemist's friend in fact, we have not thought it necessary to subscribe to the Chemist's Friends' scheme in theory.

With regard to the proposed removal of the medicine stamp, this has in recent years, since the highly artificial technique of de-stamping, become so anomalous and unfair that the proposed removal is clearly a matter of elementary equity, quite apart from the practical inconvenience which the antiquated Stamp Acts have always caused to many persons concerned. With regard to the clauses requiring disclosure of active ingredients, although this is contrary to the ideas of private property which have hitherto obtained in this country, yet nevertheless it is not a provision which should alarm anyone who markets a non-injurious product. So far as restrictions on advertising are concerned, we have no interest whatever in any of the alleged cures which the Government is going to try to discourage.

Mr. E. C. Haskins, M.P.S., Bath.—Paragraph (e) of subsection (i) of section 1 indicates that in premises (other than registered pharmacies) selling packed, non-poisonous medicines, there must be no title or description used which is calculated to suggest that the owner of the business, or anyone employed therein, possesses any qualification in connexion with the dispensing, selling or compounding of drugs. The very wording of this paragraph would seem to indicate that the official view is really "Pharmacy for the Pharmacist." Why, then, must the Government continue to permit anyone other than a pharmacist to have anything to do with the retailing of medicinal preparations? Is it not that the interests of powerful financial concerns (including multiple, chain and co-operative stores and manufacturers of nationally advertised non-C.F. lines) are placed before those of pharmacists—who alone are specially trained, and qualified to deal with drugs and medicines?

With regard to section 7 (restriction of sales to unauthorised persons), the defences allowed (subsections (4) and (5)) make it legal for any trader to retail proprietary medicines, as most grocers and stores are doing already. Although a preliminary reading of this section would give the impression that there is to be considerable restriction placed upon unqualified traders in regard to retail sales of medicines, a closer study of the "defences" shows that their present activities will be unhampered in the main.

The ultimate aim of organised retail pharmacy must be reservation to registered pharmacies of all substances used as medicines, and local branches of the Pharmaceutical Society and National Pharmaceutical Union must continue to press toward this goal. At the same time, all possible support should be given by every pharmacist in every city, town and village to articles on the Chemists' Friends list, together with "own-name" lines, as support

of the non-C.F. manufacturers amounts to support of the forces opposed to reservation of medicines to registered pharmacies. These firms desire only one thing: the maximum number of distribution points for their goods. They are very pleased to see displays of their products in chemists' windows—this adds to their prestige, but they also want ten other sales points for each chemist's shop. The registered pharmacies of Great Britain are quite capable of supplying all the medicines (proprietary and otherwise) which are needed by the public.

Mr. Wallace Pring, M.P.S., Bromley.—It is difficult, at short notice, to express an opinion upon what seems to be a Bill of considerable importance to the retail chemist—a Bill which has been suddenly sprung upon us! The effect of the repeal of the medicine stamp duties remains to be seen; we feel vaguely disturbed about the matter. Conditions to be complied with by the authorised seller of poisons seem to be rather subtle and are, we trust, sufficiently awkward to put the brake on any great extension of the practice—yet there would appear so be a distinct menace in some directions! Apparently we have still some slight hold upon the "known, admitted and approved remedies" in respect of the medicines of the B.P. and B.P.C. This may give us some small distinction as pharmacists but, generally speaking, (and without going more deeply into some of the more intricate points) the Bill does not appear greatly to safeguard, or be very helpful to, the pharmacist engaged in retail business.

Mr. R. Woolby Brooke, M.P.S., London, S.W.7.—In general, I approve the text of the Bill. There are points which occur to me: Clause 1 (i) (b) allows a good deal of liberty to wholesale houses, other than drug houses, to pack drugs, not necessarily under control of a qualified chemist. Clause 1e (iii) should have termination such as "drug store, medical hall, etc."

Subsection 8 of section 1 appears to be an additional infringement of the rights of pharmacists. Surely the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933, providing for lists of persons to sell poisons in Part II of the Poisons Act, was intended to operate in country districts where a chemist was not within easy reach. In my own district of Kensington an application was recently approved by the Borough Council, making a total of 132 persons entitled to sell poisons in Part II. All this is in one area where pharmacists are hard put to to make ends meet.

As regards advertisements the list of diseases given in Clause 3 (1) is inadequate. In fact, it is rarely that one sees an advertisement mentioning Bright's disease, cataract, etc. The occasion should be used to prevent people wasting money on quack medicines for such diseases as the various forms of rheumatism and diseases connected with the circulatory system.

On the subject of medicines, if Clause 6 (1) (a) and (b) is to have any meaning, it should be interpreted so clearly that the purchaser of a proprietary article should be able to ascertain reasonably the nature of the medicament. Phenacetin would tell the buyer rather more than parphenetidin. Too often a printed formula is made to look important, one of many I have in mind shows amyloextrin, maranta, sacch. lact. amyllum, disodiofluorescein. Finally, I would quote Sir John Anderson on "privilege," spoken at the Pharmaceutical Society's centenary commemoration: "You can, in my judgment, fairly claim to be protected in the enjoyment of conditions which make it worth while to acquire and maintain such standards of knowledge and confidence as will enable you, in the practice of your profession to serve the best interests of the community." I believe that the new Bill as a whole fosters these sentiments.

Mr. G. L. Clubb, M.P.S., Liverpool.—The Pharmacy and Medicines Bill has been published and preliminary study of it cannot fail to arouse pained foreboding and resentment among chemists. We had been led or asked to believe that the relinquishment of our long-standing privileges would gain us some substantial, though unspecified, advantages. Instead, we find that unqualified traders, whose main business is not drugs and medical and surgical appliances, are at liberty to develop these lines to an undetermined and indeterminable extent, the only conditions being that the drugs sold shall be pre-packed, that no dispensing be done and no prescriptions received, and no suggestion made that the shop is a pharmacy—the cynic being inclined to query what advantage is to be gained these days by making one's premises look like a pharmacy.

No ethically minded person will quarrel with the clauses prohibiting certain types of advertising. These enactments are greatly overdue and have been advocated by pharmacists for many years.

Clause 6 imposes on pharmacists the obligation of declaring in full detail, the formulas of all medicines sold, whether or not of their own manufacture.

Clause 7 is most ingenious; it prohibits unqualified dealers from selling articles recommended as medicines, unless, most disconcerting provision, they are proprietary medicines. The veriest dunce can

foresee the effects of this inception. It is a direct encouragement to flood the already swamped market with a new influx of branded nostrums which can be sold at shops of every description. The people who will gain from the Bill are the proprietary medicine manufacturers, wholesalers of all sorts and sizes, and unqualified traders. Perhaps the most humorous touch is the gratuitous provision by the authorities of thoroughbred excuses for infringements of certain clauses.

Chemists will lose their ancient privileges and be saddled with further restrictions. The doctrine of appeasement has triumphed yet again and political pressure by one section of the community—I suppose one should not call it organised blackmail—has achieved its object at the expense of the individual. The inevitable conclusion, now incontestably proved by a series of Acts of Parliament, is that no salvation for the chemist will ever result from legislation. This latest specimen has been, forsooth, agreed to by our leaders who have, without consulting us, sold our birthright for a mess of pottage, and what a mess!

Mr. W. E. Shepherd, M.P.S., Liverpool, 20.—A preliminary reading of the Bill seems to bring out the following points: What will be the interpretation of predominant in subsection (1) (a) and (b) foreshadows the possible considerable extension of packed goods to our detriment. Under section (4) that *lête noire*, the “co-ops,” would seem to be in a favoured position, as presumably they will be able to sell packed goods bearing the name of the Co-operative Wholesale Society which does not, I think, itself have retail shops. Paragraph 6 (1) denotes the virtual end of “patent” medicines. Another set of labels to be scrapped by retailer packers or else separate ingredient slips to be provided.

Section 7 (1) seems almost paradise, while (2) (b) is the first measure of control over drug stores, but by section (5) paradise is lost.

Is section 8 (a) the first time that ignorance has been allowed as a defence? Read it in conjunction with section 10, Interpretation, the paragraphs on “substance recommended as a medicine.” Section 9 extinguishes the medicine-stamp tax and the “known, admitted and approved” benefits.

Looked at pharmaceutically it appears that, from an ethical standpoint, the Bill has much to recommend it, but from a trading viewpoint, and that is the position which most of us in retail business have to consider principally, it appears certain that, under present conditions, the losses will outweigh the possible gains. It is almost inevitable that there will be considerable extension in the small packs of proprietaries to cater for sales at general shops and stores. One almost begins to wonder if there is not something fundamentally unsound about pharmacy, inasmuch as we constantly find ourselves put on the defensive and emerging with rather less than we had before. Will the next offensive come from hairdressers and beauty parlours with the object of limiting our sales of toilet articles, and shall we eventually find ourselves left with (a) the sale of poisons, (b) the sale of bulk drugs, and (c) dispensing? *Voilà*—The pharmaceutical profession.

Mr. T. C. Neville Booth, M.P.S., London, N.14.—Those who have been watching the illegal exploitation of pharmacy by powerful non-pharmaceutical interests have viewed with apprehension the reluctance of the Council to use their undoubted powers—and to such the appearance of the text of the new Pharmacy and Medicines Bill can be no surprise. The surprise is occasioned by the fact that we are willing to accept an amending Bill, an attempt at appeasement, when what we urgently need is a completely new Bill which would rationalise the pharmaceutical services of the nation. The Bill assumes that the main business of a pharmacist is that of a vendor of drugs and proprietary articles, whereas we are by training, examination, registration and in practice dispensing chemists. It may well be that, in the majority of pharmacies, the percentage of dispensing of prescriptions in relation to the total business is small, but nevertheless the sale of drugs and proprietary articles is essentially an ancillary part of the business. What the nation needs is a thorough overhaul of all the dispensing services in the country and the nation should be given the same high standard of efficiency whether its medicines are compounded in a pharmacy, an institution or a general practitioners' surgery. It is manifestly unfair that the very high standard of pharmaceutical practice which is observed in a pharmacy should not be available wherever a prescription is dispensed. We shall be in the tradition of our founders if we insist on the inclusion of a clause which will provide for the registration and inspection of all premises where medicines are dispensed. No pharmacist should object to those clauses which would curtail or eliminate the unethical advertising of proprietaries and the sale of drugs for illegal purposes, but every member of our profession should vehemently protest against such a mess of pottage as is offered in exchange for our ancient concession under the “known, admitted and approved” privilege. As the Medicine Stamps Acts

are repealed it is open to suggestion that the right of other traders to sell proprietary medicines automatically disappears, and that by virtue of the repeal of the said Acts, pharmacists are now the sole legal vendors of such articles. Our main concern as pharmacists is to perfect the pharmaceutical services of the country, so that the public get a square deal always. If we achieve that ideal “all other things will be added unto us,” but if we acquiesce in a “botched-up peace” we shall be in danger of losing even the remaining privilege of being vendors of poisons. Have we the courage to demand the rejection of this Bill in favour of a new Pharmaceutical Services Bill, which would place the fullest pharmaceutical facilities at the service of every citizen whether he be a civilian or a member of his Majesty's Services?

Foster-McClellan Co., London, W.1.—As owners of a series of proprietary medicines, we welcome the Pharmacy and Medicines Bill as a whole and more particularly those clauses relating to advertising and formula disclosure. The restrictions set out in Clause 3 have long been observed by members of the Proprietary Association of Great Britain and, in our view, the list of diseases could and should be extended. Indeed, the list incorporated in the Bill is already exceeded by that observed by members of our Association.

Compulsory formula disclosure is long overdue. Whilst we are fully aware of both real and potential dangers from the manufacturers' point of view, particularly as regards increased competition and possibly an intensification of substitution on the part of unscrupulous traders, we regard the provisions not only as a concession to enlightened public opinion but also as a measure that will help to remove the reproach of “quackery” from this sorely tried and much-maligned industry. Formula disclosure has long been a statutory requirement in many countries and it should be welcomed here as a sign of real progress that in the long run will benefit, rather than otherwise, all products of repute.

It is true that the scope of retail distribution will be widened by the passing of the Bill but, in our view, manufacturers as a whole will use special discrimination as regards retail outlets which can be controlled by them. The wholesale trade may prove to be a complication in this particular respect but, as time goes on and experience accumulates, we feel that any necessary measures of control will be amicably worked by arrangements between manufacturers and wholesalers. It will be admitted that some classes of medicines, e.g., simple laxatives, are more suitable for indiscriminate distribution than other classes. The policy of this company is to rely chiefly on distribution of its products through qualified chemists and careful discrimination is used with respect to other retail outlets. That same policy will be continued in the new conditions that will follow the passing of this Bill.

L. Piper, M.P.S., Ipswich.—Clause 1 of the Bill does not appear to give the class of authorised sellers of poisons whose demands have made this clause necessary all they would have wished. It is satisfactory to note that they will be unable to run drug stores where a pharmacy could not pay, and the limitations imposed will inhibit their activities a great deal. The collection of scripts at places other than a pharmacy is expedient, as cases where even drug stores have collected N.H.I. scripts and handed them out after being dispensed by a friendly chemist have been known, and I hope that Clause 1 means that such action will be illegal.

Clause 3 embodies the principles of Bills drafted at intervals over a period of years, and chemists, as well as medical men, will welcome its terms and the suppression of many fraudulent and blatantly advertised lines is very desirable. This applies also to Clause 4, though many of these articles have been sold direct to the public, and chemists hitherto would probably have refused to handle a good many of them.

As to Clause 6, I am of the opinion that the declaration of active ingredients on the package or bottle of every proprietary medicine is undesirable, though I agree that this may be answered by the fact that declaration of formulas and consequent destamping has made no difference to sales of advertised lines. I would have preferred to see registration of the formula by the appropriate Government department and published for the information of persons interested. This would have produced an appreciable amount of revenue, and could have been used to check extravagant claims as distinct from the prohibitions stated in Clause 3.

Clause 7 is obscure in its reference to prescribing by persons other than those referred to in the clause, and I would like to see unqualified persons forbidden to dispense medicines even if prescribed by themselves.

Taking the Bill as a whole, I feel that clarification of the obscurely worded paragraphs is needed to help chemists to understand whether or not they are retaining something in return for privileges surrendered.

Mr. W. S. Benjamin, M.P.S., Bexleyheath.—As an employee pharmacist, I welcome the opportunity to comment upon the new Pharmacy and Medicines Bill. It appears to me that Clauses 2 to 8 are in the nature of a sugar coating to disguise the bitter pill which pharmacy is asked to swallow in Clauses 1 and 9. Any restriction of "unethical" advertising as proposed in Clauses 3, 4 and 5 is obviously to the good, but it is time that all advertising to the public of all remedies was prevented. The increasing amount of self-medication is the cause of alarm amongst both the pharmaceutical and medical professions. Pharmacists today are asked to spend the major portion of their time handing out preparations over the contents, claims and use of which they have no control. Similarly, Clauses 6 and 7 (control of the sale of medicines) deserve support so far as they go, but I am uncompromisingly in favour of the restriction of the sale of all drugs and medicines to pharmacists.

In a Council election leaflet and elsewhere I have declared my opposition to any amendment of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933, calculated further to legalise the sale of drugs in shops not under qualified management, as proposed in Clause 1. In my view, and in the clearly expressed view of the majority of pharmacists everywhere, this would lower the status and weaken the position of the pharmacist. The same would be accomplished by Clause 9 (repeal of the medicine stamp duty), which simply adds to the already considerable stranglehold over the trade established by the big "patent" medicine combines.

The merits of this Bill or of any other piece of legislation concerned with the sale of medicines depend entirely on how effectively they place the control of the distribution of drugs and medicines into the hands of the persons adequately trained to perform this task. Judged by this standard, I cannot see the Bill finding favour in the eyes of my colleagues.

Mr. J. H. Lupton, M.P.S.—I feel that the Society, having had a pistol held to their head by the Home Office, have really got out of the difficulty reasonably well. Clause 1 is where we have had to give ground, and this should point out to every deep-thinking pharmacist the immense value of the Chemists' Friends movement, as Woolworths, Marks & Spencer, etc., will all be selling unstamped proprietary medicines after the war. Apart from Clause 1, the rest of the Bill seems to be *in statu quo*, with but slight modifications—all to the good of pharmacy.

Mr. R. MacDonald Murray, M.P.S., Middlesbrough.—The Bill traverses the sound principles of government. It is hardly in conformity with democratic principles that an Act of Parliament should be amended at the behest of a sectional interest before it has been put into effect. Pharmacists are alarmed that a contentious Bill of this kind can be introduced at a time when the pharmacist, like many others, is preoccupied with other and more urgent matters. Surely, in view of the far-reaching implications contained in this Bill, the medical profession will not stand idly by while pharmacy has, at the pistol point of the Barnums of the "quack" medicine trade and other big business interests, to pursue a policy of appeasement which, in the opinion of the great majority of the Pharmaceutical Society's members, is inimical to public welfare and health. It is common knowledge that the majority of the Society's Council are gravely perturbed in connexion with, especially, that part of the Bill which has for its purpose the amending of Sections 8, 9 and 10 of the 1933 Act. Why then is this Bill being rushed through in such haste?

In looking at the Bill the following points occur to me: The patent medicine manufacturers have won their fight for absolute "free trade" in the distribution of their products. I would ask them: Is the worst product to be classed with the best, and do they all wish to disregard the goodwill of the chemist in business?

Multiple stores, "co-ops," department stores, etc., are to be permitted to sell without restriction "patent" and proprietary remedies, commonly used household and domestic remedies and the popular drugs, provided they are pre-packed, so long as they can satisfy the Secretary of State that the selling of drugs is not the predominant part of the business. This to me seems a farcical clause because even in many chemists' shops the sale of proprietary medicines, toilets, photography, baby and invalid foods, etc., constitute the greatest turnover. This protection will prove a veritable gold mine to the legal profession if there is serious intention in this direction. Who is to advise the Secretary of State when a prosecution is called for?

This Bill will greatly undermine the economic security of the pharmacist in the community. Apart from pharmacists who may open "drug stores" (not called this, of course), we shall see patent medicine stores, perfume shops, cosmetic shops, etc., springing up everywhere. At present we have in pharmacy a public-relations officer of whom we hear too little. In my opinion we require a real propaganda department. We must emphasise by educational

methods the public hazards which accompany uncontrolled distribution of drugs and medicines. In sheer self-defence pharmacists should demand this. This Bill may even help to make our task less difficult.

Mr. A. Greenwood Watkins, M.P.S., Reading.—The general impression gained on a first reading of the "Pharmacy and Medicines Bill" is a favourable one, although some of its implications remain obscure. Clause 1 is an attempt to solve the problem arising out of the High Court interpretation of Sections 8, 9 and 10 of the 1933 Act. This is done by granting the same freedom to the private chemist as is now enjoyed by the co-operative societies. It may be pointed out that the apparent gain is largely illusory, as, under present circumstances and for some time to come, restrictions of supplies will make it difficult to maintain the necessary predominance, and surely no pharmacist wishes to make up the amount with hardware and groceries. The subsidiary sale of drugs is wrong in principle, and it would have been better had steps been taken to stop it. One consequence of the Bill is that drug hawking will be illegal, but why impose a fee for registration for one class of trade and not on all selling drugs?

The prohibition of certain advertisements is welcome and will, it is hoped, meet a better fate than the previous attempt.

Under "Disclosure of composition of medicines" extension should be granted so that identification may be by "P.F." or other number—otherwise practical difficulties will arise in labelling. This clause means the end of secret remedies. Included as "authorised sellers of medicine" are those who have served a regular apprenticeship only. True a provision restricts the privilege to those in business at the date of passing of the Act, but why continue this anachronism?—or alternatively make the period say for the past seven years. The universal sale of medicines is to be regretted. From the figure recently given the average sale of stamped medicines per year per licence is only about £30. To extend the points of distribution will reduce this figure without commensurate advantage to the proprietors. The true remedy is to be found in intensified support of the C.F. Scheme.

Kay Brothers, Ltd., Stockport.—The effect of the proposed widening of the scope of retail distribution is easy to exaggerate. In war-time, manufacturers who might in other circumstances have been inclined to add lower-priced sizes to their range may be loth to divert any part of their limited supplies of packing material to smaller packs which could only yield a reduced financial return. As to the restrictions on advertising, the proposals in the Bill would do no more than give statutory force to limitations already voluntarily adopted by reputable manufacturers. Formula disclosure, the third chief proposal in the Bill, has become so general in recent years as obviously to have lost its terrors for proprietors of remedies. A decade ago this would doubtless have been the most hotly contested part of the Bill. Surprisingly, the Bill provides no machinery for defining "ailments" or for distinguishing between foodstuffs which are medicines and medicines which are foodstuffs. Some simpler and less objectionable method of discrimination than the "trial and error" of prosecution and decisions in the courts seems called for. The draftsmanship of some parts of the Bill, especially in connexion with "exceptions" and "defences," seems unnecessarily involved and obscure. These criticisms are, however, of small weight when set against the advantages of sweeping away the mass of anomalies represented by the archaic legislation the Bill would supersede.

INSURANCE ACT DISPENSING

Hull.—At a meeting of the Insurance Committee on July 2 the chairman (Mr. F. A. Chapman) announced that the medical subcommittee had appointed himself and Mr. Roland S. Mountain (Clerk) to represent the Insurance Committee on the local Pharmaceutical War Committee.

Kirkcaldy.—It was stated at a meeting of the Insurance Committee on June 27 that efforts were being made early this year to come to an arrangement with the chemists in the burgh over the question of hours, in order to obviate the situation which arose last winter. "We would like them to keep open until 7 p.m.," said the chairman. "They went against us last year and we want to raise the matter early this year to see if we can get this carried out."

Herefordshire.—For the first quarter of the year the cost of prescriptions issued in the county was 10·4d. per insured person (5·9d. for ingredients) against 10·1d. for the West Midlands area. The average total cost of 13·3d. per insured person was the highest in the area (seventeen counties), the average being 11·d. and the lowest 7·4d. (Coventry). The total number of prescriptions, 35,831, cost £1,551, against 46,693 and £1,757 19s. 6d. for the corresponding period of last year. Thirty-three chemists, with forty-two places of business, are under agreement with the Insurance Committee. In the first quarter of the year the chemists dispensed 8,762 fewer prescriptions than for the corresponding period in 1940.

COMPANY NEWS

P.C. means Private Company and R.O. Registered Office

A. BENNETT (HULL), LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £1,500. Objects: To acquire the pharmacy carried on as A. Bennett at 81 Waterloo Street, Hull. Mrs. Lilian A. Nixon, 268 Westbourne Avenue West, Hull, and Annie G. Bagnall, directors.

MACNEAL CHEMICAL CO., LTD. (P.C.).—Capital, £100. Objects: To carry on business as manufacturing chemists, chemical and general importers and exporters, etc. The first directors are not named. Secretary: Arthur Cross, Seaton, Horsell Vale, Woking, Surrey.

MACDONALD & SON, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £3,000. Objects: To carry on business as manufacturers of and dealers in surgical dressings, instruments, etc. James and Mrs. Ivy L. Macdonald, both of 4 Fairfax Avenue, Didsbury, directors. R.O.: 2 Moorland Road, Didsbury, Manchester.

EXELL BROS., LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £1,000. Objects: To carry on business as wholesale, retail and manufacturing chemists, etc. Arthur Exell, M.P.S., and Blanche Exell, both of 320 Millhouses Lane, and Vincent E. W. Dixon, M.P.S., 56 Seagrave Crescent, Sheffield, directors. R.O.: 36-38 Ellesmere Road, Sheffield.

CARVANSONS, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £500. Objects: To carry on business as manufacturers of and dealers in chemical compounds and preparations, essential oil distillers, etc. Frank Carter, Earlswood, Stafford Road, Eccles, and William C. Evans, 8 Delamere Avenue, Salford, directors. R.O.: 323 Broad Street, Pendleton, Salford.

CURTIS OPTICAL CO., LTD. (P.C.).—Capital £500. Objects: To carry on business as opticians, scientific instrument makers, photographers, manufacturers of and dealers in chemicals and medicines, etc. Emanuel Curtis, 38 Eton Court, London, N.W., and Benjamin Martin, 7 Furzcroft, Hove, directors. R.O.: 11 Grosvenor Street, London, W.1.

WHITE, TOMKINS & COURAGE, LTD.—Net profit for the year ended March 31 was £45,703, against £58,053 in the previous year. Dividend, 10 per cent. (same); carried forward, £77,439 (£78,736).

J. & E. ATKINSON, LTD.—Net profit for 1940 amounted to £14,912, against £14,372 in 1939. No dividend is to be paid on Ordinary shares (2½ per cent. last year). Balance carried forward is £5,030 (against £9,119); to staff pensions, £16,000 (*nil* last year).

VIROL, LTD.—Directors recommend payment of an ordinary dividend of 10 per cent. (as last year). Gross trading profit amounted to £168,045, against £146,441. Net profit was £37,356. E.P.T. absorbed £22,000, representing 60 per cent. of the year's profits.

VITAMINS, LTD.—Net profit for year ended March 31, after charging excess profits tax, amounted to £26,656, against £36,316 in the previous year; provision for income tax totalled £16,650 (against £16,857). Directors recommend dividend for year of 25 per cent. (against 35 per cent.), carrying forward £9,611 (against £9,330).

UNITED CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION, LTD.—The directors report an increase in turnover during the year ended March 31. Sales of Ucal specialities materially increased. A full year's dividend on the 7½ per cent. and 5 per cent. Preference shares has been paid. The disposable balance is £17,924 10s. £2,618 has been written off plant and motors; provision has been made for Excess Profits Tax (£3,500). The directors recommend dividends of 15 per cent. on Founders', and of 10 per cent. on Ordinary shares, placing £4,000 to reserve and carrying forward the balance. Mr. C. H. Griffiths offers himself for re-election as director.

VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP.—A meeting of British Photographic Plates & Papers, Ltd., is to be held at 796 Salisbury House, London Wall, London, E.C.2, at 2.30 p.m., on July 31.

Petition for Compulsory Winding-up.—A petition by Mr. Horace Cecil Brailey for the compulsory winding up of Brailey & Smith, Ltd., chemists, was mentioned to Mr. Justice Uthwatt in the Chancery Division recently. Mr. J. A. Reed, for the petitioner, said it was a contributory's petition. There were only two shareholders. The petition was presented by one and opposed by the other. Suggestions had been made which might dispose of the matter by compromise, which was eminently desirable, and he asked for a week's adjournment to enable the negotiations to be concluded. This was assented to.

TRADE NOTES

NEW PRICE LIST.—Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., Royal Liver Building, Liverpool, 3, have issued a new "A" list of their pharmaceutical, biological and other products.

NAIL VARNISH.—A. E. Pezarro & Co. are able to supply bulk quantities of nail varnish in many shades. The correct address of the company is 126 Edgware Road, London, W.2.

NOT IN SHORT SUPPLY.—Bickiepegs, Ltd., Welwyn Garden City, Herts, point out that their specialities, Bickiepegs, Bickiepeg broth and Chu-chus (rucks) are neither in short supply nor subject to purchase tax.

WASH LEATHERS.—Thomas Swales, St. Stephen's Road, Leeds, 9, advertises in this issue velvet-finish wash leathers packed in neat show boxes holding one dozen. Sizes and prices are detailed on another page.

COUPONS NOT REQUIRED.—Scholl Manufacturing Co., Ltd., 184 St. John Street, London, E.C.1, remind chemists that the rationing of clothing scheme does not apply to Dr. Scholl's surgical stockings, leggings, anklets and kneecaps.

TABLE OF PRICES.—New retail and wholesale prices for a number of price-protected specialties of Potter & Clarke, Ltd., 60 Artillery Lane, London, E.1, to take effect on August 1, are tabulated in an advertisement on another page in this issue.

HYDROPATHIC PAD.—Attention is drawn on another page to Rheumief patent hydropathic pad for rheumatism. The pad, which is being extensively advertised, is price-protected under the P.A.T.A. scheme. Rheumief is obtainable through wholesalers or direct from the manufacturers, The Health Centre, Matlock.

ORGAKININE TABLETS.—This preparation, which is stated to be effective in the treatment of influenzal colds, has been introduced by Organon Laboratories, Ltd., Brettenham House, Lancaster Place, London, W.C.2. Each tablet contains 75 mgm. quinine di-ascorbinate (quinine base, 36 mgm. and vitamin C, 39 mgm.).

NATURAL MINERAL WATER SUPPLIES.—Ingram & Royle, Ltd., Bangor Wharf, 45 Belvedere Road, London, S.E.1, state that despite enemy action they are in a position to supply natural mineral waters, such as Evian-Cachat, Vittel, Rubinat, etc., together with any British waters. Customers are asked to send orders by post.

GENEROUS BONUS OFFER.—A free display of fourteen small cartons with every three displays of Koray brand tablets ordered is the substance of an offer made to chemists by Koray, Ltd., Gillespie Road, London, N.5. The offer applies only to cartons of the one size and is limited to a maximum of ten bonus units (i.e. thirty displays ordered). The closing date is July 28.

Closed on Saturdays.—Advertisers and subscribers are reminded that owing to war conditions the Head Office of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, 28 Essex Street, London, W.C.2, will be closed on Saturdays until further notice. All urgent instructions relating to advertising and subscriptions should be sent to the C. & D., c/o The Pitman Press, Bath, Somerset.

Business Changes

MALTA WHOLESALE DRUG CO. have taken new offices at Villa Parisio, Casal Lija, Malta.

A. GIFFIN & CO., LTD., merchants, have removed to 21 Cullum Street, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3.

BLAKE'S MEDICAL STORES, LTD., Plymouth, have opened new premises at 19 Saltash Street and 32A Tavistock Road.


J. H. ANDREW & SON, chemists, 72 Palmerston Street, Bollington, have opened a new branch at 2 Grimshaw Lane, West Bollington.

C. W. FIELD, LTD., have transferred their offices to White Lodge, Speke Road, Hunts Cross, Liverpool. Telephone: Hunts Cross 1129.

C. & D. DISPENSING PRICE LIST

CHANGES in prices during June have occurred mostly in items in which there is a small turnover. The result is that the index of cost is not materially affected, and the June figure is 123.2, as in the previous month, against 119.8 in June 1940. In all quotations of dispensing prices, due allowance has been made for purchase tax where applicable.

Cost		Purchase Tax, where chargeable, is included in Dispensing Price	Dispensing Price			
d.	per		4 oz.	1 oz.	1 dr.	1 gr.
100	lb.	Aloes Curaçao pulv.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
36	oz.	Alouin	—	1 1	2	—
10	oz.	Belladonna rad. pulv. . . S.I.(4)	—	1 8	3	—
14	oz.	Cadmii bromid.	—	2 0	4	—
21	oz.	Cadmii iodid.	—	3 1	5	—
13	oz.	Cambogia pulv.	—	2 1	4	—
49	oz.	Cinchophenum R only	—	7 10	1 2	—
27	oz.	Cresotii carb.	—	4 5	8	—
14	oz.	Creosotum P.I.(8)	—	2 2	4	—
18	oz.	Eucalyptol	—	2 8	5	—
24	oz.	Eugenol	—	3 6	6	—
24	oz.	Ext. bellad. virid. B.P.C. S.I. (5)	—	3 10	7	—
10	oz.	Ext. coloc. co.	—	1 8	3	—
40	gr.	Hyoscinæ hydrobrom.	—	—	—	6 4
51	lb.	Inf. aurantii conc.	—	8	2	—
42	lb.	Inf. caryophylli conc.	—	7	1	—
108	lb.	Inf. serpentariae conc.	—	1 2	2	—
63	lb.	Jalapa pulverata	—	9	2	—
41	lb.	Lobelia pulverata P.I. (8)	1 8	6	1	—
52	oz.	Menthol (natural)	—	7 7	1 1	—
17	oz.	Ol. anisi	—	2 6	5	—
22	dr.	Ol. bergamottæ	—	—	3 3	—
13	oz.	Ol. graminis citrati	—	1 11	4	—
78	oz.	Ol. lavand. (30% esters)	—	11 4	1 8	—
36	oz.	Ol. menth. Jap.	—	5 3	9	—
48	oz.	Ol. menth. redest.	—	7 0	1 0	—
28	lb.	Potassii chloridum	1 0	4	1	—
9	oz.	Pulv. cinnamomi co.	—	1 5	3	—
9	oz.	Pulv. scammoniae co.	—	1 5	3	—
24	oz.	Sodii nitroprussidum	—	3 6	6	—
25	lb.	Sulph. præcip.	1 0	4	1	—
63	oz.	Theobromin. et sodii sal.	—	9 10	1 5	—
78	lb.	Tinct. cinchonæ	3 0	10	2	—
86	lb.	Tinct. cinchonæ co.	3 4	11	2	—



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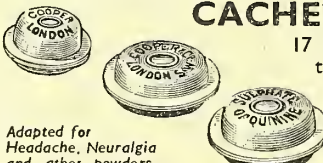
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MARRIAGES

CALLAM—MOFFAT.—At Ruthrieston South Church, on June 21, John Callam, M.P.S., 155 Hutcheon Street, Aberdeen, to Kathleen Moffat.

PACKER—STILL.—At Ascension Church, Bath, on July 8, Cecil Roy Packer, M.P.S., St. Saviour's Road, Bath, to Mabel Still, 19 Maybrick Road, Bath.

STARK—MACDONALD.—At Knightswood Baptist Church, Glasgow, on June 24, William Copland Morrison, 5 Lincoln Avenue, Glasgow, to Johnina MacDonald, M.P.S., 41 Golf Drive, Drumchapel.

WALTERS—MANNING.—At St. Patrick's Church, Wellington, Shropshire, Henry Oakley Walters, M.P.S., Bronallt, Clasemont, Morriston, Swansea, to Agnes Winifred Manning, Victoria Avenue, Wellington.

WYLLIE—KAY.—At Burlington House, Glasgow, on July 4, by Rev. J. Adamson Finlay, M.A., uncle of the bridegroom, Robert Finlay Wyllie, M.P.S., 3 Struan Road, Cathcart, Glasgow, to Jessie Brash Kay, M.A.

DEATHS

ARMITAGE.—Recently, Mr. Arthur Armitage, M.P.S., 158 Greenford Avenue, Hanwell, London, W.7. Mr. Armitage passed the Minor examination of the Pharmaceutical Society in 1903.

CLEMENT.—In action in the Middle East, recently, Major Ivor T. Clement, M.C., Royal Tank Regiment, son of Mr. H. E. Clement, M.P.S., 62 High Street, Hampton Hill, Middlesex.

JOINER.—Recently, Mr. Samuel Joiner, 36 Babbacombe Road, Bromley. Mr. Joiner qualified in 1904.

STRICK.—Recently, Mr. John Richard Strick, Ph.C., 10 Belmont, Bath, aged seventy-five.

WILLIAMS.—At Wollaston, recently, as the result of a motor accident, Miss Edith Williams, M.P.S., Nos Mas, Egginton Road, Wollaston, near Stourbridge, aged fifty-eight. (See also p. 11.)

PERSONALITIES

MR. LOUIS NICHOLAS (vice-chairman, Beecham's Pills, Ltd., and a director of many other companies) has been made a justice of the peace for the City of Liverpool.

ALDERMAN W. DEACON, president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, attended Buckingham Palace on July 8 to receive from His Majesty the King the C.B.E. recently bestowed on him.

UNDER the auspices of the British Council, Lord and Lady Leverhulme on July 4 entertained thirty foreign students of Liverpool University and School of Pharmacy at a garden party in Thornton Manor.

MAJOR W. H. BLYTHE (a director, Wm. Blythe & Co., chemical manufacturers, Church) is reported to be safe and well after having taken part in the evacuations both from Greece and Crete.

MR. DONALD WAYMARK and Miss F. E. KING have been appointed to the board of directors of Britton, Malcolm & Waymark, Ltd., chemists' sundriesmen, 38 Southwark Bridge Road, London, S.E.1, in recognition of loyal and efficient service since the company was established nearly twenty years ago.

LIEUTENANT GEOFFREY GLEDHILL TURNER, R.N.V.R. (a director, Alex Parsons, Ltd., manufacturing chemists, Manchester), has been awarded the George Cross for gallantry and devotion to duty. Lieut. Turner joined the Army shortly after the outbreak of war but was discharged on medical grounds; he succeeded in joining the R.N.V.R., and has since been three times involved in explosions.

DR. WILLIAM CULLEN, who has been elected president of the Society of Chemical Industry, was born at Uddington in 1867 and educated at Hutchesons' Grammar School and the Andersonian College, Glasgow. He joined the staff of Nobel Explosive Co. in 1890. In 1901 he was appointed general works manager of the Modderfontein factory of the British South African Explosives Co., Ltd., and spent fourteen years in South Africa. In 1915 he joined the staff of the Ministry of Munitions.

THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

ESTABLISHED 1859

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Official organ of The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, The Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland and of other Chemists' Societies in the Empire

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The New Pharmacy Bill Reviewed

ON pp. 13 to 16 of this issue we publish replies so far received from trade organisations, manufacturers, wholesale distributors and retailers to an invitation to express their opinion on the provisions of the Pharmacy and Medicines Bill which passed its Second Reading in the House of Commons on Tuesday, July 8, and which, we understand, is likely to pass through the Committee stage and be given its third reading in the course of the next week or ten days.

The trade conferences, convened at the Government's suggestion, which led up to the introduction of the Bill as an "agreed" measure were carried out in secret and further meetings, which, it is understood, have been held during the past week or so were also treated as confidential. It is all the more to be regretted, therefore, that so little time is being allowed for the consideration of the provisions of the Bill and for the trade to voice its opinion, and, if thought desirable, to put forward constructive amendments. From the time the Government first intimated its intention to cancel the Medicine Stamp Duties we have persistently advocated that all members of the Pharmaceutical Society should be kept fully advised of any negotiations on the subject carried on by their Council and, on matters of first importance such as this, the members' opinions should be taken prior to their being made, through their representatives, a party to any trade agreement. Actually, from individual opinions expressed in the columns of the *C. & D.* (February 15, p. 93); it cannot even be claimed that the majority of the members of the Council of the Society were in favour of the terms of the agreement which now forms the basis of the main provisions of the Bill. From our correspondence from individual members and from Branches the majority of members of the Society were apprehensive of this secret diplomacy of their Council and now seem anything but satisfied with the result.

There is no evidence that the medical profession was invited to take part in the discussions leading up to the agreement submitted by the Proprietary Association. If this be so it is an astonishing omission. Even at this stage it may be pertinent to ask if the Council of the British Medical Association would subscribe to a measure which must increase self-medication?

The Main Features

Turning to the Bill itself it can in general terms be described as stabilising legislation, since in each of the parts it recognises the *status quo*, that is to say, the co-operative societies are to be allowed to carry on as heretofore, while some attempt has been made to enable chemists to conduct a business in similar fashion. In regard to advertising, though the provisions do not go so far as the pro-

posals of the 1936 Bill, it will put on the Statute conditions largely in accordance with those enforced at the present time by the leading advertisers and publishers. In respect of proprietary medicines, so many of these have been de-stamped in recent years that the Acts concerned with such matters had almost ceased to operate. Elsewhere in this issue it will be seen that the Council of the Society has decided to attempt to obtain certain amendments, but however successful it may be, the Bill, through its various concessions, cannot have but a detrimental effect on the status of pharmacy. Chemists will be able to conduct branch establishments where the sale of drugs and medical and surgical appliances do not constitute a predominant part of the business carried on and provided the drugs have been packed at some other establishment and are sold as received. The interpretation of the term "predominant part" is to be the subject of subsequent regulations. It will not be possible for such branch establishments to dispense, receive, or dispatch prescriptions. Restriction is also placed on the titles that may be used in connexion with a branch business, and such businesses will have to be registered with the Pharmaceutical Society (the registration fee is not to exceed £1). Although certain titles cannot be used in connexion with a branch business there is no prohibition on the use of labels on which is described the title or description of the person, or his address at which the drugs were packed for sale. Such branch businesses could become listed sellers of Part II poisons, subject to the usual conditions. It will be recalled that under the Poisons Rules the wholesale manufacture of medicines containing poisons must be under the control of certain qualified persons. There is no similar provision in the Pharmacy and Medicines Bill, yet it is essential that drugs supplied in sealed containers to the public should have been packed under qualified supervision.

Restricting Clause Nullified

The part of the Bill dealing with the repeal of the Medicine Stamp Acts follows the lines of the memorandum published in the *C. & D.* (April 12, p. 236). At first sight there would appear to be some small compensation for chemists for the loss of the "known admitted and approved" remedies, but, in practice, we are of opinion this will not prove to be the case. The peculiar phrasing of Section 7 of the Bill, by first restricting the sales and then nullifying that restriction by setting up defences, results in the final position being that there is no reason why every retail trader should not be a vendor of proprietary medicines. It is even possible for such unqualified traders to undertake a form of counter prescribing, provided they comply with the conditions of having the product made up elsewhere and indicate the composition of the article on the label of the container. Such a product would, in effect, be a proprietary article. It will be noted from the report of the Pharmaceutical Council meeting (*Coloured Supplement*, p. xiv), that an effort is to be made to require the composition indicated on labels to be given in recognised scientific terms. If disclosure of the formula for all and sundry to become acquainted with is accepted, then it is only right that such indication should be in terms that everyone can understand. There are on the market certain remedies which have stood the test of time, the formulas of which are not disclosed. As the public generally are not interested in the composition of the remedy apart from idle curiosity, or to ascertain if they can get it compounded at a cheaper rate, the question arises whether this is the best method of dealing with quack medicines. Hitherto there has been some form of registration of all businesses in which proprietary medicines were sold by the Patent Medicine licence. From September the unqualified retail vendor of proprietary medicines will, unless a listed seller, be subject to no form of licensing. The widespread sale of medicinal products likely to result from this legislation will tend to inaugurate a new class of retail business.

The Outlook

The pharmacist in retail trade is now called upon to meet new conditions and the threat of increased competition. Is the point of view and the interest of the manufacturer of packed drugs irreconcilable with that of the retail chemist? Ever since the introduction of proprietaries and similar packed goods the manufacturer has used the chemist and the facilities he provided to launch his goods on the market. Many manufacturers have adopted the policy of selling their goods to the public exclusively through chemists. The success of the Chemists' Friends scheme, which is now well established and is steadily increasing in strength, is good evidence of the mutual benefit driven by such co-operation and support. It now seems that those manufacturers who have as yet not seen their way to join the C.F. scheme will have to reconsider their position. To put the matter briefly and frankly, they will either be with or against the chemist in retail trade. They

cannot expect to enjoy the best of both worlds. They will appreciate that chemists are not defenceless and are not lacking in enterprise. If they, the chemists, find they have to meet a sudden and sharp increase in competition from all classes of retail traders they may be faced with no alternative but to take any and every action to preserve their established businesses. The chemist has first to consider his business as a means of existence, and whether it may be considered unethical or not he would be at liberty to commence putting up his "own-name" packed lines, and not only selling them in his own shop but also distributing them in his locality to "unauthorised sellers" of poisons for sale by retail in competition with

national proprietary products. With his local connexion, prestige and knowledge and particularly on the score of price competition, we feel quite sure the chemist would more than hold his own. That is the danger as we see it; such conditions would lead to chaos but the fault would not lie with the chemist.

While this legislation might under certain circumstances ultimately lead to revolutionary changes in methods of retail trading in pharmaceutical products, we believe there is every desire on the part of the large majority of manufacturers to sell their products to the public through the chemist, a practice which has served both them and the public so well in the past.

NOTES ON THE PHARMACY BILL

by Adest

THE Pharmacy and Medicines Bill, printed as a Supplement to THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of July 5, contains, as indicated in a brief editorial statement, three sets of proposals linked by their relation to the practice of pharmacy. The second of these sets of proposals is relatively simple; the first and third need more detailed examination.

Amendments of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act.—The concession to be granted under Clause 1 to co-operative societies could not have been confined to them except by a specific enactment that no British Parliament is likely to sanction. It follows that any authorised seller of poisons may carry on a branch or branches otherwise than as a pharmacy on complying with the conditions here laid down. These conditions are stringent, and may be supplemented by regulations made by "the Secretary of State"—presumably any Secretary of State, for the expression is not defined in the Bill. By Clause 1 (1) (b) drugs must be sold ready packed as received, and containers must not be opened by retailers before selling. Strictly interpreted, this means that if a menthol cone gets detached from its base in transit, it must be handed to the customer in that condition. Sales in customers' own containers are further banned by Clause 1 (1) (c): "drugs must not be dispensed or compounded on the premises." Clause 1 (1) (d), prohibiting the receiving of prescriptions on and the dispatching of dispensed goods from such premises is important. The ruling given in the *C. & D.* (1927, II, 204) that National Health Insurance prescriptions may be taken in at, though not dispatched from, drug stores will not apply if this Clause is passed and drug stores become, as they may in some cases, branches of businesses owned by authorised sellers of poisons. (In this connexion it may be remarked that medicines emanating from medical practitioners' surgeries may be seen lying on the counters of village shops waiting to be called for.) Clause 1 (1) (e) (iii), prohibiting the use of any title, emblem or description suggesting a pharmaceutical or analogous qualification, permits, it may be assumed, the use of the proprietor's name without any such addition. Under Clause 1 (4) no retailer may put his title or description on containers of goods for sale at a shop of the kind specified: it is difficult to see any valid reason for this limitation. In Clause 1 (6) (b) the phrase "so required to be registered" is awkward, as at first sight it appears to mean what it means in the immediately preceding paragraph, whereas the context indicates that it means the opposite. Clause 1 (8) should be noted by proprietors intending to sell Part II poisons at a branch of the kind specified. In Clause 1 (10) the word "dispensed" is made to refer, for the purposes of this Clause, to supply in accordance with the prescription of a medical practitioner, dentist or veterinary surgeon only. Clause 2 amends the procedure with regard to removals from and restorations to what is there called "the register": the Registers of Pharmaceutical Chemists and of Chemists and Druggists should preferably have been named in full.

Medicines.—The third part of the Bill, headed "Medicines," raises several problems. It opens with a provision (Clause 6 (1)) that every substance recommended as a medicine must have appended to it either (a) a statement of its composition or of its active constituents, or (b) in the cases of British Pharmacopœia and British Pharmaceutical Codex preparations a similar statement or "the description set out at the head" of the appropriate monograph. "Active constituents" is an expression left undefined in the Bill and susceptible of more than one interpretation. One turns, for instance, to a *Mistura Gentianæ cum Rheo* in "Pharmaceutical Formulas" containing powdered gentian, rhubarb, ginger and sodium bicarbonate, with oil of peppermint and distilled water. Which of these ingredients are "active constituents?" Counter prescribing is safeguarded in the further provision that this subsection "shall not apply to any article made up and supplied for

the use of a particular person, being an article prescribed by reference to the needs of that person." Clause 7 (1) (c) places the unqualified proprietor of an existing drug store on a level with the medical practitioner, dentist and authorised seller of poisons. As was suggested in your issue of May 3 (p. 287), this arrangement is unsatisfactory, especially as no provision is made for terminating the concession following the proprietor's death, bankruptcy or becoming insane. Failing such a provision, the courts may have to decide disputes arising from conflicting interpretations. By Clause 7 (2) (b) the proprietor of this kind of shop must either control it personally or put a registered pharmacist in charge of it. Presumably there is nothing to prevent such a pharmacist from displaying his certificate of qualification in the shop, if he or his principal wishes, although, in contrast, Clause 1 (1) (e) (iii) prohibits (as already mentioned) anyone in the type of shop there specified from exhibiting any title, emblem or description suggesting a pharmaceutical or analogous qualification.

Clause 7 (4) (a) limits the sale of recommended herbs by unspecified traders to single species or their parts. Clause 7 (4) (b) similarly provides for natural mineral waters "or an artificial imitation thereof," without mentioning salines. Clause 7 (5) is presumably designed to continue the distinction between a trade mark applied to a single article (or, as proposed, to not more than two articles) and a trade mark covering a group or groups of articles. It is a masterpiece of legal phraseology, and may, a century hence, evoke a similar remark about "confused, obsolete verbiage" to that uttered by Mr. Justice Rowlatt in the High Court in 1931. A glance through the Year Book of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association indicates that there will be border-line cases in which manufacturers may decide to modify their present list of proprietaries. Clause 9 repeals the existing stamp duties and licence duties on certain medicines, and allows a period for recovering the value of unused stamps. Clause 10 (1) makes the expression "advertisement" include "any announcement made orally": hitherto, verbal recommendation has not been held to involve stamping, and it will be of interest to learn what the new definition connotes.

Advertisements.—It will be remembered that in 1936 the House of Commons was "counted out" on the second reading of a Medicines and Surgical Appliances (Advertisement) Bill being moved. Those whose diplomacy in securing an agreed measure was then frustrated may find a certain ironical humour in the sandwiching of a similar measure between two parts of another Bill. The proposals now put forward are less comprehensive than those of the Bill of 1936 (*C. & D.*, 1936, I, 367), and the list of ailments or groups of ailments is shorter, comprising seven instead of thirteen, with one addition in each case.

Other abstentions from defining with precision are evident in this part of the Bill. Export trade should have been specifically exempted from its provisions. Medicines containing statutory poisons should have been dealt with, as the proportions of such ingredients vary widely. Offering for sale, which has escaped mention, is usually associated with selling in Acts of Parliament. Samples are unnoticed. Recommendation implies mention of ailments, a subject left untouched. Doses taken at the counter, hitherto exempt from the attention of the administrative authority, will, one supposes, remain exempt. The lengthy definition in Clause 10 of "substance recommended as a medicine" includes the phrase "terms which give a definite indication that the substance is intended to be used as, or as part of, a food or drink, and not as, or as part of, a medicine"; such a phrase opens the way to evasion. No regulations being provided for in the application of this part of the Bill, the courts will probably be asked to settle various points of interpretation. The recommendations of the Select Committee of 1936-37 have disappeared unhonoured and unsung, though the text of the Bill is prefaced by an explanatory memorandum.

TRADE REPORT

Spot quotations recorded for pharmaceutical chemicals, crude drugs and essential oils represent the prices for wholesale quantities of standard quality. C.i.f. quotations do not include marine war risk insurance and other abnormal charges payable in the present emergency

28 Essex Street, W.C.2, July 9

THE volume of trade being transacted in the markets continues to be restricted by lack of supplies of some important commodities and by the obstacles in the way of obtaining replacements. Prices generally are showing a tendency to move in an upward direction and in some cases very high levels are being reached. The PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMICALS markets have been quiet, with most quotations unchanged. New prices have been announced by British makers for COCAINE and salts, and for heavy and light MAGNESIUM CARBONATES. ACETANILIDE has been in steady demand at previously quoted figures. Dealers' prices for BARBITONE are firmly maintained. Little improvement is noticeable in the supply position of BENZOIC ACID, and prices are purely nominal. GUAIACOLS, though steady, are none too plentiful. Dealers in PHENACETIN are extremely firm in their views, and quotations are at considerably higher levels.

Crude Drugs

A steady business, mostly in smallish quantities, is reported, with values in most instances firm. Spot supplies of unrestricted AGAR continue to fetch high prices; material restricted to bacteriological uses is quoted at much lower figures. New-crop offers of Curaçao ALOES are awaited, spot supplies being difficult to locate. ANTIMONY producers report a fair business at good prices. Forward offers of new-crop CASCARA SAGRADA are late, probably because of conditions on the other side where, it is reported, rains have delayed peeling. Dealers have raised their quotations for CINCHONA BARK. CLOVES is firm at the figures quoted last week; higher prices are ruling for the English-drawn oil. Forward quotations for new-crop Portuguese ERGOT are lower. Sudan GUM ACACIA has shown some fluctuation, but the final price is considerably over that given last week. It is officially announced that prices of the new season's production of HONEY are to be controlled. The spot position of IPECACUANHA appears to be easier; Minas is reported in rather poor supply at the source. Supplies of Brazilian JALAP are expected shortly. MENTHOL continues to show a steady rise in values. PEPPERS are firm and advancing. The scarcity of RHUBARB on spot has been somewhat relieved by supplies of rough-round now reaching the market. SHELLAC is steadier.

Essential Oils

Demand for these products has been generally quiet and mostly limited to modest quantities. Values of ANISE continue to rise, owing to lack of supplies. BAY remains firm at unchanged prices. CANANGA is showing a firmer tendency. Values of CASSIA are nominal. On the present price of Zanzibar CLOVES, values of English-drawn CLOVE oil are at higher levels. Little interest has been taken in EUCALYPTUS, but there has been a fair inquiry for LAVENDER. LEMONGRASS shows a further advance on the spot. Owing to restricted supplies, prices of MANDARIN would have to be negotiated. Californian sweet ORANGE is again dearer on spot. PALMAROSA shows an increase. Chinese PEPPERMINT has again been in active demand, and the upward price movement continues. SASSAFRAS is tending dearer on spot. American SPEARMINT is quoted at slightly higher figures.

Exchange Rates on London.—The following are the principal rates of exchange on the pound sterling at the opening on July 9: New York, 4.03 dollars (Bank of England fixed rate); Madrid, 4.50 pesetas (official) and 46.55 pesetas (voluntary); Lisbon, 100 escudos (Bank of England fixed rate); Zurich, 17.35 francs (Bank of England fixed rate); Shanghai, 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ dollars (per dollar); Stockholm, 16.90 kroner (Bank of England fixed rate).

Pharmaceutical Chemicals

ACETANILIDE.—Business steady. Dealers quote B.P. at approximately 2s. 5d. per lb.

AMIDOPYRINE.—Prices are unchanged, and business remains slow. Dealers quote at about 30s. to 33s. per lb., according to quantity.

BISMUTH SALTS.—Makers' prices for the two leading salts are as follows: CARBONATE.—1 cwt., 8s. 4d.; 28 lb., 8s. 7d.; 8 lb., 10s.; 4 lb., 10s. 9d.; under 4 lb., 11s. 3d. per lb. SUBNITRATE.—1 cwt., 7s. 3d.; 28 lb., 7s. 6d.; 8 lb., 8s. 8d.; 4 lb., 9s. 5d.; under 4 lb., 9s. 11d. per lb.

BROMIDES.—Demand fair; makers' prices steady: Potassium, B.P., 5 cwt., 2s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 1 cwt., 2s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 28 lb., 3s. 4d.; 14 lb., 3s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 7 lb., 3s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 4 lb., 3s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 1 lb., 3s. 11d. Sodium, one penny per lb., and ammonium, threepence per lb. extra. War-emergency clause and usual re-sale terms apply.

CAFFEINE.—New prices per lb. are as follows:—

	100 lb. or 1 cwt.	56 lb.	28 lb.	Lesser Quantities
Pure, B.P.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Anhydrous	26 0	27 6	29 0	30 6
Citrate	27 6	29 0	30 6	32 0
Benzoate	19 6	21 0	22 6	24 0
Sodium benzoate	17 6	19 0	20 6	22 0
Sodium salicylate	18 4	19 10	21 4	22 10
Hydrobromide	32 6	34 0	35 6	37 0

GLYCERIN.—Quotations for small supplies are as follows: 1-cwt. drum, 81s. per cwt.; 56-lb. tin, 89s.; 28-lb. tin, 92s.; 14-lb. tin, 95s. per cwt., all prices subject to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount for cash in twenty-eight days.

COCAINE.—Makers announce an increase in prices for the home trade as from July 1. New prices, subject to re-sale clause, are as follows:—

	25 oz. or over	16 oz. or under 25 oz.	Over 8 oz. and under 16 oz.
Hydrochloride	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Nitrate	35 8	36 10	38 0
Alkaloid	35 8	36 10	38 0
Citrate	39 1	40 4	41 7

GUAIACOL.—Values steady, but supplies not too plentiful. Liquid, 13s. 6d. to 14s. per lb.; crystals, 12s. 6d. to 13s. per lb. CARBONATE.—Steady at about 12s. 6d. to 13s. per lb., according to quantity.

HEXAMINE.—Free-running crystals are quoted by dealers at around 2s. 3d. per lb., with other grades at lower prices.

MAGNESIUM CARBONATE.—The official price of the heavy carbonate has been advanced to 106s., and that of the light to 77s. 6d. per cwt.

MERCURIALS.—For controlled prices, see C. & D., May 10, p. 294.

PHENACETIN.—Dealers are firm in their views, asking 10s. to 11s. 6d. per lb. for the small supplies available. British makers are understood to be quoting at substantially lower figures but rationing supplies to consumers.

SANTONIN.—Convention prices are unchanged: 15 kilos and over, £35 10s.; not less than 10 kilos, £36 5s.; not less than 5 kilos, £37; less than 5 kilos, £38 per kilo, delivered free in the U.K.; 1-kilo tins free.

SULPHANILAMIDE.—Firm at about 11s. to 12s. per lb., as to quantity.

THEOBROMINE.—New prices per lb. are as follows:—

	100 lb. or 1 cwt.	56 lb.	28 lb.	Lesser Quantities
Pure	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Sodium benzoate	26 0	27 6	29 0	30 6
Sodium salicylate	17 6	19 0	20 6	22 0
Calcium salicylate	18 4	19 10	21 4	22 10
	27 0	28 6	30 0	31 6

VANILLIN.—British makers quote as follows: Ex clove oil or guaiacol, five cwt., 18s. per lb.; one-cwt., 18s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 56 lb., 18s. 3d.; less than 56 lb., 18s. 6d., carriage paid in U.K. Tins in cases returnable.

Crude Drugs

AGAR.—The position is little changed. Some spot business is reported done in unrestricted material at 22s. per lb., and further small supplies may be available at this figure. Small quantities afloat are available for pharmaceutical purposes at around 16s. 6d. to 17s. per lb. Some afloat parcels for bacteriological use are offered at 13s. to 14s. per lb.; landed and duty paid.

ALOES.—New-crop offers for Curaçao are awaited; spot supplies are difficult to find, and prices are nominal. Cape, spot, about 55s. to 57s. 6d. per cwt., ex store.

ANTIMONY.—Has a firm tone, with producers doing business on a fair scale. English regulus continues to be quoted at £102 10s. per ton, delivered, for minimum 99 per cent.; foreign regulus, £93, duty paid; Chinese, nominal.

ARNICA FLOWERS.—First-hand supplies appear to be exhausted, but the new crop should soon be available.

BALSAMS.—Quoted unchanged. Tolu, spot, about 8s. 6d. per lb.; Canada, approximately 7s. 9d. per lb.; Copaiba, B.P., about 3s. 6d. per lb., if available; Peru, 7s. 3d. and 7s. 6d. per lb.

BENZON.—Prices steady, with rather more business passing. Sumatra, spot, from £5 15s. to £7 per cwt., ex store.

BISMUTH METAL.—Current price for minimum quantities of 5 cwt. is one dollar 25 cents per lb.

BUCHU.—Business has not amounted to much during the week; prices are steady. Spot, about 3s. 2d. to 3s. 4d. per lb. for good green rounds; shipment, new-crop, about 2s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. for f.a.q.

CAMPHOR.—Spot demand has remained quiet. Japanese, tablets, none available; slabs, in small supply, about 5s. 4d. per lb.; flowers, about 5s. 4d. per lb. A parcel of Chinese crude (95 per cent.), now landing, is available at about 4s. 9d. per lb., duty paid. English refined, steady, as follows: Flowers, one cwt., 6s. 3d.; 28 lb., 6s. 4d.; less than 28 lb., 6s. 5d. per lb. Transparent tablets, 1-oz.: One cwt, 6s. 9d.; 28 lb., 6s. 10d.; less, 6s. 11d. per lb.

CANTHARIDES.—Stocks of Chinese are extremely small; the spot price would be in the region of 7s. per lb.

CARDAMOMS.—Quiet and unchanged. Bombay seed, spot, about 5s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; Mangalore seed, 4s. 9d.; Aleppy greens, 4s. 3d. per lb.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—Forward offers of new-crop peel are still difficult to obtain, but the value would be around 95s. per cwt., c.i.f. Spot is unchanged at from 140s. per cwt. upwards, according to age of bark.

CHILLIES.—Firm, with quotations unchanged. Spot, Mombasa, 155s. per cwt.; Sierra Leone, 160s. and Sudan, 155s., duty paid.

CINCHONA BARK.—Dealers have raised their quotations slightly. *Calisaya*, if available, now worth approximately 1s. 11d. per lb., ex store.

CLOVES.—Firm at the figures quoted last week. Zanzibar, spot, 1s. 11d. per lb., value; shipment, grade 2, nominal. Madagascar, unquoted.

COLOCYNTH.—In moderate inquiry. About 3s. 6d. per lb. would be wanted on spot for the small supplies of fine white pulp available.

DAMIANA LEAVES.—Quotations are nominal in the absence of supplies.

DANDELION ROOT.—Dealers continue to quote small supplies of Indian at around 155s. per cwt., ex store.

DERRIS ROOT.—Fair business passing at the figures quoted last week. Spot, 4 per cent. rotenone, about 1s. 3d. per lb.; slightly lower, about 1s. 2d. per lb.; 18 per cent. ether extract, tested, about 1s. per lb.

DIGITALIS LEAVES.—Supplies of new-crop leaves are expected shortly from India.

DRAGONS BLOOD.—Spot quotation for fair re-boiled is in the region of £27 per cwt., ex store.

ERGOT.—Forward quotations for new-crop Portuguese are at considerably lower levels, coming in at about 7s. 6d. per lb., c.i.f.; dealers' spot quotations are unchanged at around 10s. 6d. per lb.

EUONYMUS.—First-hand stocks now appear to be exhausted and no quotations are available.

GAMBOGE.—Stocks are small and demand is restricted. Good-quality Siam pipe, spot, £30 per cwt.

GINGER.—West African, afloat, 135s. per cwt., c.i.f., value. Cochín, unwashed, afloat, 140s. per cwt., c.i.f.

GUM ACACIA.—Firm, with Kordofan cleaned sorts showing a further rise to 120s. per cwt., ex store; shipment, 54s. per cwt., c.i.f. Bleached, spot, from 300s. per cwt.

HONEY.—The Ministry of Food announces that prices of new season's production of honey are to be controlled.

HYDRASTIS.—Business has been of small account; spot, tested, about 19s. to 21s. per lb., according to test; untested, about 17s. 6d. per lb.

IPECACUANHA.—Demand continues moderate, and the spot position is easier. Matto Grosso, spot, about 17s. 6d. to 17s. 9d. per lb., ex store; shipment, about 13s. 6d. per lb., c.i.f. Minas, spot, about 11s. 6d. to 12s. per lb., according to test and seller; shipment, about 10s. to 10s. 3d. per lb., c.i.f., according to shipper; supplies at source appear to be on the small side, and mail reports state that Japanese interests have bought considerable quantities. EXT. IPECAC. 11g., 26s. per lb., for minimum lots of twelve winchesters.

JALAP.—Supplies of Brazilian are expected shortly.

LOBELIA HERB.—Dealers' quotations are steady at about 1s. 9d. to 1s. 10d. per lb., according to quantity.

MENTHOL.—The steady rise in price that has been a feature of this market during recent weeks continues, with spot business done in Chinese at 38s. to 40s. per lb., according to brand and seller; shipment, July–August, subject to freight being available, 27s. 6d. per lb., c.i.f. Odd cases of Japanese may be had at around 40s. per lb.

MERCURY.—Not much business is passing. Prices are fixed at £47 15s. to £48 15s. per bottle of 76 lb., ex warehouse. United States production during 1940 totalled 37,777 flasks, the largest output for many years. The average price for the year was the highest on record.

NUTMEGS.—Firm. Spot, Eastern browns, 65's, 2s. 4d. per lb.; 80's, 2s. 2d.; West Indian, sound unassorted, 1s. 9d.; 80's, 2s. 2d.; 90's, 2s.; wormy and broken, 1s. 7d.

ORANGE PEEL.—Spot quotations for small supplies of bitter quarters remain at about 2s. 1d. to 2s. 2d. per lb.; there may be some thin-cut available, for which about 4s. per lb. would be required.

PEPPERS.—Firm, with all varieties showing a fractional advance on the week. Lampong, spot, in bond, 8½d. per lb., buyers; Tellicherry, spot, 9d., buyers; Aleppy, spot, 8½d., nominal. White Muntok, firm; spot, in bond, 1s. 2d. per lb., buyers; shipment, unquoted.

PIMENTO.—Quiet, with values unchanged. Spot, 2s. 1d. per lb., sellers; shipment, new-crop, July–August, 170s. per cwt., c.i.f., nominal.

PYRETHRUM.—Dealers' quotations for Kenya flowers are in the region of 175s. to 185s. per cwt., ex store. The price to importers of large quantities would be at appropriately lower figures.

QUASSIA CHIPS.—Business quiet, with dealers quoting small spot supplies at about 35s. per cwt., ex store.

QUILLAIA BARK.—Dealers' spot quotations for very limited supplies would be in the region 105s. to 110s. per cwt., ex store.

RHUBARB.—Supplies now becoming available have improved the prospects of buyers, who should be able to obtain rough-round on spot at from 5s. 9d. per lb. for slightly wormy up to about 6s. 3d. per lb. for good pinky quality; afloat, rough-round, offered at 5s. per lb., c.i.f. Shensi, spot, about 8s. to 8s. 3d. per lb.

RUBBER.—Quiet. Standard ribbed smoked sheet, spot, 13½d., buyers; 13¼d., sellers; August–October, 13½d., buyers; 13¼d., sellers.

SEEDS.—ANISE.—Turkish, spot, duty paid, 135s. CANARY.—Nothing available on spot. CARAWAY.—Dutch, spot, nominal at 290s., duty paid.

CORIANDER.—Morocco, spot, 150s., duty paid, ex store Liverpool or London; Indian (now landing), 130s., duty free. CUMIN.—Malta, spot, 145s., duty free; Morocco, 150s. quoted, duty paid. DILL.—Indian, spot, 90s., duty free, ex store Hull. FENNEL.—Indian, spot, 85s., duty free; Iran, 82s. 6d., duty paid. FENUGREEK.—Morocco, spot, duty paid, 47s. 6d., ex store Liverpool, and 50s., ex store London. MUSTARD.—English, 100s. to 115s., according to quality.

SENEGA.—Interest in shipment prices continues, with fair business reported done in new-crop at 4s. per lb., c.i.f. Spot, in restricted supply, about 5s. 3d. per lb.

SENNA.—Firm; quotations unchanged. Tinnevely, spot, supply small. No. 1 leaves, 10d. per lb.; No. 2 leaves, 6½d.; No. 3 leaves, 5d. per lb. Hand-picked Tinnevely pods, if available, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per lb.; manufacturing pods, 9d. to 10d. per lb. Alexandrian hand-picked pods, a few small lots available at 2s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per lb.; manufacturing quality, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. per lb.

SHELLAC.—Firm on spot; standard TN orange, 135s., sellers; shipment, 144s. 6d., c.i.f., sellers.

SLIPPERY ELM BARK.—Continues steady but quiet. Spot, grinding quality, about 1s. 2d. per lb.; wired bundles, about 2s. 1½d. per lb.

SQUILL.—The spot value of small supplies of Indian would be in the region of 125s. per cwt.

TRAGACANTH.—Quotations for medium grades are as follows: No. 1, white, £135; No. 2, white, £115; No. 3, white, £100; pale leaf, £84; amber leaf, £57; red leaf, from £25; woody and huggy, from £15, ex store.

TURMERIC.—Spot, Madras finger, 70s., ex store Hull.

VALERIAN ROOT.—Indian, quoted at about 150s. per cwt., ex store.

WAXES.—BEES'.—Quiet, with quotations unchanged. Spot, 235s.; in bond, 215s.; shipment, Dar-es-Salaam, nominal at 187s. 6d. Japanese, first three brands, spot, duty paid, 170s.; in bond, 155s.; shipment, nominal. CARNAUBA.—Spot, fatty grey, 435s.; chalky grey, 425s.; Primeira, 500s.

WITCH HAZEL (LIQUID EXTRACT).—Spot, 10s. 3d. per Imperial gallon, duty paid.

Essential and Expressed Oils

ANISE (STAR).—Values continue to rise, owing to shortage of supplies. Spot, tins in cases, about 14s. 6d. per lb.; drums, about 14s. per lb.

BAY.—A quiet spot demand continues, with values maintained. Spot, about 7s. 6d. to 8s. per lb., ex store.

BOIS DE ROSE.—Spot market remains firm, value about 17s. 6d. per lb.

CAJUPUT.—Not much spot demand; values steady at around 7s. per lb.

CANANGA.—Small spot business at firm prices around 26s. per lb.

CASSIA.—Values are nominal owing to lack of supplies.

CEDARWOOD.—Spot values are firm at between 2s. 4d. and 3s. for American oil, according to quantity.

CINNAMON LEAF.—Firm and unchanged at 5s. to 5s. 6d. per lb., spot.

CLOVE.—Quotations for English-made are now in the region of 15s. to 16s. per lb. Imported, if available, would be worth about 10s. and upwards per lb.

EUCALYPTUS.—Quiet and unchanged. Spot, about 4s. to 4s. 6d. per lb. for 70 to 75 per cent., according to holder, and about 4s. 6d. to 4s. 9d. per lb. for 80 to 85 per cent.

GERANIUM.—Quiet business is passing at steady rates. Spot, Bourbon and Algerian, about 70s. per lb.

GROUNDNUT.—No change in controlled price for large bulk quantities of refined deodorised, which remains at £40 per ton, naked ex works.

JUNIPER BERRY.—Dealers' quotations for small spot supplies are in the region of 30s. per lb.

LAVENDER.—Some spot inquiry, with values maintained at about 70s. per lb. for good-quality oil.

LEMONGRASS.—Spot quotations show a further advance to about 9s. upwards per lb.

LIME.—Stocks of good-grade oil appear to be very low, and about 32s. per lb. would be wanted for genuine West Indian on spot.

MANDARIN.—Prices are a matter for negotiation; stocks are restricted.

MUSTARD.—British-made synthetic oil continues to attract attention. Spot, about 20s. per lb.

NUTMEG.—Good-quality oil is steady on the spot at about 24s. per lb.; supplies are restricted.

ORANGE.—Spot price of Californian sweet shows a further advance to about 9s. 6d. per lb., in small drums, ex store. Prices of Rhodesian and other grades would be a matter for negotiation.

PALMAROSA.—Spot price shows a further increase to 25s. per lb., nominal.

PATCHOULI.—Steady, with business slow. Genuine Singapore, spot, 45s. to 50s. per lb.; Seychelles, about 40s. to 45s. per lb.

PEPPERMINT.—Good demand has been experienced this week for Chinese, and business is reported done on spot at 28s. per lb., with sellers now asking 29s. to 30s. per lb. Japanese, in small supply, about 30s. per lb. on spot. American, spot, firm at about 30s. per lb., ex store.

PETITGRAIN.—Spot quotations are nominal at around 17s. 6d. per lb.

SASSAFRAS.—Holders of spot stocks of genuine natural oil are quoting at approximately 14s. per lb.

SPEARMINT.—American oil is quoted by dealers at the slightly higher figure of 21s. per lb. on spot.

THYME.—Spot values are steady, with some inquiry. Spot, good-quality oil, about 14s. per lb.; other grades at lower prices.

WINTERGREEN (GENUINE).—Spot is quoted at approximately 11s. 6d. to 14s. per lb.

WORMSEED.—Small supplies are available on spot at about 22s. per lb.



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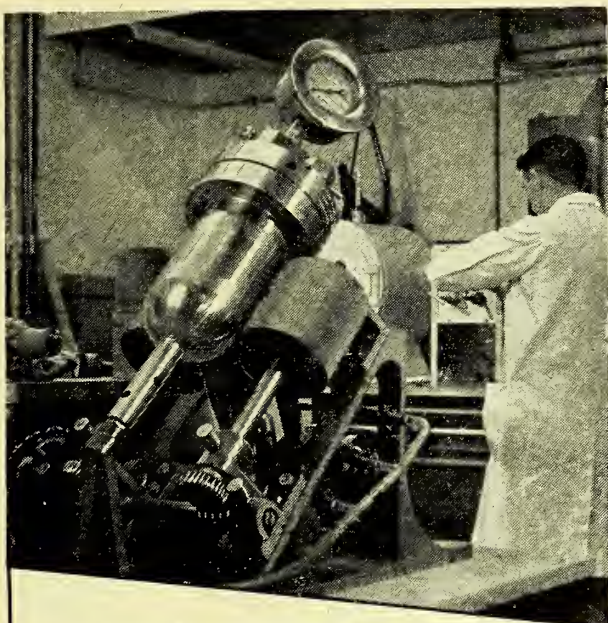
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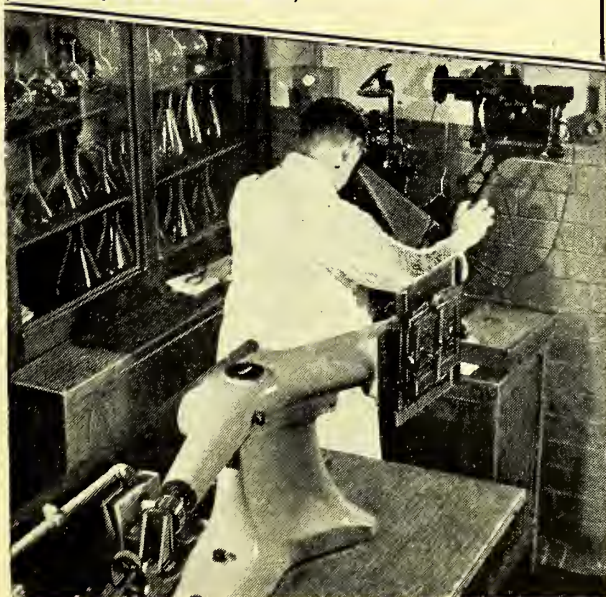
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JOHN KNOX (Stoke-on-Trent), Ltd., Wholesale Chemists, Hanley, Staffordshire, have vacancies for Invoice Clerks, male or female, Warehouse Men. Please state details of experience, age and approximate salary expected.

SEVERAL men reserved by age from military service required as process men in a chemical factory in the north-west of England at union rates. Unqualified pharmacists would be considered. Replies to CDB/622, London Office of this Paper.

PARLIAMENT DEBATES THE PHARMACY BILL

IN the House of Commons, on July 8, Mr. Ernest Brown moved the second reading of the Pharmacy and Medicines Bill. He said the Bill repealed the medicine stamp duty and the licence duty, in accordance with a promise given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer last April. The stamp duty yielded about £800,000 and the licence duty about £40,000. The tax had become difficult to collect, if not unworkable. There were many exceptions, the main one being that only medicines in which proprietary rights were claimed were dutiable. The proposition that medicines were a suitable subject for tax and that a fair *ad valorem* duty would be 16½ per cent. had been followed out to the extent that the Government had applied the purchase tax to medicines. The yield on that rate was estimated at about £3,000,000 a year, or nearly four times the present annual yield of the medicine duties. The continuance and maintenance of the chemists' profession was essential to the welfare of the community, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer had already announced that the trading interests had reached an agreement on the various points concerned. The agreement was provided for and was a solution which would safeguard the interests of chemists. There was no desire to interfere with the business of legitimate herbalists.

The Bill did what was necessary to regulate the trade in medicines and, with regard to secret remedies, the course had been chosen which was most likely to help. The brutally scandalous age of patent medicines was largely a matter of the past, but in the present state of the law an opportunity still existed for the unscrupulous to trade on the fears of uninformed and credulous persons. Any qualified person in future would be able to tell the value of any medicine and to advise the user accordingly. The only kind of medicines where disclosure of the ingredients was not required would be those supplied to individual persons and prescribed according to their needs, as, for example, a mixture made up in accordance with a doctor's prescription.

In future, advertisements dealing with remedies for certain serious diseases or with articles for procuring abortion would be prohibited. The Bill also made minor amendments to the Pharmacy and Poisons Act. The Bill was the first legislative step in the journey on the road to reform.

MR. J. GRIFFITHS said he strongly supported the clause prohibiting the advertisement of alleged cures for certain diseases. There was nothing worse than the exploitation of the fears and hopes of poor people who were ill. (Hear, hear.) The Government appeared to be too tender to the big proprietary trusts. The way to prevent the exploitation of the poor was to provide a State medical service.

MR. BEVERLEY BAXTER, speaking as a member of the 1937 committee, said that although the Bill looked very innocent and constructive, there was in it a tendency to place monopoly powers in the hands of the British Medical Association, which was a very reactionary institution. He would rather have a system of inquiry and judgment on the efficacy of remedies. The Bill should not be rushed through in its present form.

DR. HILL thought that the Bill did not go far enough. He wanted the Government to take powers similar to those possessed by the United States Postmaster, and prevent the use of the post for the spreading of falsehood or the making of claims dangerous to the public. "We have been tolerant and respectful of vested interests too long in their exploitation of the sick and suffering," he declared.

REAR-ADMIRAL BEAMISH declared that the Ju-Ju practising people of Africa and China had nothing to learn from the current advertisements of quack remedies. "This Bill will in some measure expose the monstrous pagan frauds of the quack," he added.

MR. G. A. V. DUCKWORTH complained that the Bill would not prevent certain kinds of advertisements no less objectionable than those to be prohibited. He mentioned advertisements which exploited the emotion of fear, by offering preventives of illness or social handicap. "The manner in which these substances are advertised is nothing short of a public scandal," he said. They were, in effect, trying to blackmail the public. There was also the exploitation of ailments which might prove destructive of romance. "The advertisement artist," he said, "has used all his ingenuity in supporting this type of advertisement; for instance, a picture of a girl who had lost her friends and lover, no one could tell her why." He asked for a statutory body to be set up under the Ministry of Health to censor "the whole range of advertisements of patent medicines."

MR. ANEURIN BEVAN said that the printing of the ingredients of a medicine on the bottle would not stop people buying it, because they would not know the meaning of the analysis. The Bill had not aroused any opposition because it was almost innocuous to the persons who would have fought it had it not been an ineffective Bill.

MR. H. STRAUSS submitted that a large number of lying advertisements would not be hit by the Bill at all. These constituted very often a greater evil than the contents of the medicines they were designed to serve.

SIR ERNEST GRAHAM-LITTLE said that £30,000,000 a year was being spent by the public on medicines. It was not in the interests of the national health that the public should dose themselves with drugs without any check.

MR. R. J. DAVIES said that the Bill would fall short of the requirements of the approved societies if it did not deal with surgical appliances, such as instruments to aid the deaf, which were often sold at a high price.

MR. WAKEFIELD said that the Bill did not go far enough in the control of proprietary medicines, but he hoped it was only a beginning.

CAPTAIN ELLISTON agreed that the Bill was long overdue.

SIR F. FREMANTLE said it was ridiculous to describe the Bill as hasty legislation. It did not go far enough, because it did not compel disclosure of quantity of the component parts of preparations. He regretted that surgical appliances were not included.

MISS HORSBRUGH, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, replying to the debate, said that there was no truth in the suggestion that this Bill prejudiced the little man as compared with his bigger competitor. The measure did not profess to deal with advertisements as a whole, but only certain classes of advertisements. She knew of a case where an advertisement was published entitled, "How to get fat," with a picture of a lean man. The advertiser promised to give the money back if after the full course suggested the purchaser did not get fat. When someone wrote in answer to the advertisement he was told "go to the butcher and buy some." (Laughter.) She believed that the fact that the ingredients of the remedy had to be disclosed would in many cases stop what might be a ramp.

The Bill was read a second time and committed to a committee of the whole House.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondents may adopt an assumed name, but must in all cases furnish their real name and address to the Editor

"C. & D." Annual Special Issue.—Just a line to compliment you upon this very fine piece of work in spite of all the difficulties which the war has loaded upon you as publishers. Apart from reflecting credit upon yourselves this issue reflects, in our opinion, a credit upon the pharmaceutical trade of this country, and I hope that it will find a wide circulation in the overseas markets we are trying so hard to cultivate.—S. & M. Ltd., London.

Pharmacy and Medicines Bill.—Under the Pharmacy and Medicines Bill (C. & D. Supplement, July 5), it is difficult to see that the pharmacist is offered anything in the shape of compensation for the loss of his old privilege with regard to "known, admitted and approved" remedies. A little consolation results from the fact that in the course of time the application of Clause 7 (restriction of sales by unauthorised persons) will eliminate a certain number of drug stores run by owners who have served a regular apprenticeship, because they must have been in business on their own account at the time of the passing of the Act. There is no special mention of the owner of a drug store who has not served an apprenticeship, so presumably he would be classed with other traders and could only sell those preparations which come under the exceptions, such as proprietary remedies.—Registered (5/7).

Insurance Dispensing and Counter Trade.—The idea that insured persons would bring more counter trade has proved as delusive as the hope that a successful panel service would be the stepping stone to the reservation of dispensing. Once I kept a record over a definite period of the number of persons who bought other goods while waiting for their panel medicines, and the percentage was negligible. In fact most of those who spent anything at the counter were regular customers, who brought their N.H.I. scripts because they already dealt with me for their everyday requirements. So far from Insurance work increasing trade, I have known insured persons, who have had to wait for a few minutes while their prescriptions were being dispensed, stroll over to the bazaar opposite and come back with some item which they could have purchased from me. Another drawback is the influx of Insurance scripts during the busy evening hours. That is, of course, in normal peace-time. If several insured persons are waiting in the pharmacy it is a decided hindrance to other trade, and I have seen prospective customers look in at the door and go away thinking the shop was too full to be served promptly. It would take several dispensing fees at the present rates to equal the loss of profit on some of those missed sales. The raising of the income limit to £420 a year will include the majority of residents in most districts, and a further possible extension to wives and children would bring practically all one's customers into the Insurance scheme, and the chemists will be faced with a serious loss of income unless the dispensing fees are raised.—Panelite (7/7).

TABLET Machine Operator required. Some experience with Rotary types machines essential. Permanent position. Write, stating age, salary required and details of experience, to Glaxo Laboratories, Ltd., Greenford, Middlesex.

SACCHARIN Tablet maker required. Good salary to right person. 384/127, London Office of this Paper.

SAVORY & MOORE, Ltd., require a Shorthand Typist for secretarial duties. Applicants with knowledge of the Pharmaceutical Trade given preference. Apply by letter. Standard Works, Lawrence Road, N.15.

WOMAN Pharmacist required for light pharmaceutical manufacturing work. Initial salary £4 per week. The British Drug Houses, Ltd., Graham Street, London, N.1.

WANTED Qualified Pharmaceutical Chemist for supervision work. 384/123, London Office of this Paper.

SITUATIONS WANTED

RETAIL (HOME)

PHARMACIST (34) desires Responsible Position. Highly capable and widely experienced. Apply, 384/119, London Office of this Paper.

ASSISTANT, Unqualified, middle-aged, West End experience, present engaged, seeks post near vicinity. Clerical work not objected to. "Chemicus," 4 Salisbury Road, Richmond, Surrey.

PHARMACIST, married, aged 35, contemplating change in near future, would consider position as manager in busy pharmacy within 25 miles of London, preferably in S.E. suburb. Present position held seven years. Kindly state salary payable and hours of business. Pharmacist, Fairings, Forest Drive, Keston Park, Kent.

QUALIFIED Lady desires post, sound dispensing experience Hospital or wholesale preferred. Please state salary and hours, London or south. CDB/619, London Office of this Paper.

LOCUMS SEEKING ENGAGEMENT

EXPERIENCED Locum, thoroughly reliable, free from July 27th. Age 48. Tall, active; £5 weekly. Write, L. Ostan, Poste Restante, G.P.O., Bristol.

WHOLESALE

ADVERTISER of great experience with wide personal connexion in the provinces for many years amongst veterinary surgeons, and intimate knowledge of therapeutic and biological products is open to an arrangement with a firm seeking extension in the above direction. Full particulars in confidence from XYZ, 384/122, London Office of this Paper.

BUSINESS Executive. Twenty years own factory (48). Exempt military service. Closed war legislation. Would accept suitable post. Capable organiser with all-round experience, home and export. Good education. Languages. Best references. 384/131, London Office of this Paper.

EXPERIENCED Representative now covering Home Counties; strong connexion chemists. Excellent references. Would consider part-time representation. 384/126, London Office of this Paper.

AGENCIES

AGENTS wanted in London and other big towns of the United Kingdom for the selling of an entirely new and very successful disinfecting line (Brit. Pat.) needed in every shelter, factory, etc. Please give full particulars. 384/118, London Office of this Paper.

GENTLEMAN, experienced, over military age, with car, will act as Agent, Representative or Continuator to firm of standing. Scottish territory. Address, 929 Porteous, Exchange Place, Glasgow.

SCOTLAND. Old-established agents, splendid connexion, wholesale, retail and hospitals, require additional first-class lines. 383/987, London Office of this Paper.

EXCHANGE COLUMN

SACCHARIN. 550 offered in part exchange for good quality sweet-orange oil. State price and quantity of oil available. 383/100, London Office of this Paper.

BUSINESSES FOR DISPOSAL

CHEMIST SHOP, North Ireland, to let to purchaser of stock and fittings as required. Good opportunity in best town in Province. Genuine reasons for disposal. Apply 383/109, London Office of this Paper.

FOR SALE

NAIL VARNISH

EXCLUSIVE QUALITY IN BULK. Colours: PINK, MID PINK, MAUVE, SIGNAL RED, ROYAL RED, ORANGE, 55/- gallon, 17/6 quart, also NATURAL, 53/6 gallon, 17/- quart, COLOURLESS, 52/- gallon, 16/6 quart. Delivered free. Shade Cards on request. Cash with orders. Supplies limited. Send orders at once.

A. E. PEZARRO & CO., 126 Edgware Road, London, W.2
Paddington 1759

BOTTLES. One dram to one ounce; good quantity of various capacities. CDB/627, London Office of this Paper.

CAST Iron Powder for sale. 30, 60 and 90 mesh to suit customers' requirements. 384/124, London Office of this Paper.

OFFERS invited for Silas Sicilian Lemon Oil, hand pressed. Quantity 1 cwt. Original packages. Apply 384/120, London Office of this Paper.

56 lb. Tartaric Acid B.P., 1 cwt. Citric Acid Granular B.P., 1 cwt. Potassium Citrate B.P., 1 cwt. Sodium Citrate B.P. for disposal. What offers? Write, CDB/618, London Office of this Paper.

WANTED

AMYL Butyrate and Ethyl Butyrate: a few gallons of each required immediately. Send quotation and sample to CDB/624, London Office of this Paper.

AUTOMATIC Tube Filling and Closing Machines wanted for filling medicinal preparations for export. Box 384/128, London Office of this Paper.

CLASS 16 QUOTA. Registered Wholesalers and other Distributors with Class 16 Quota to spare are invited to contact well-known Perfumers at 384/115, London Office of this Paper.

COSMETIC supplies offered Retailers who also previously manufactured Class 16 small wares themselves. Face Powders, Lipsticks, Cleansing Creams, Vanishing Creams, Rouges. Very finest qualities and assured monthly supplies. Write Sedley Agencies, 2 Sedley Place, London, W.1.

HORSEADISH wanted in quantity. Write, stating prices, etc., Beardsley, 34-40 Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.4.

OILS or Fats and Glycerine, also Block Stearine wanted, Box 56, Pools, Brettenham House, Lancaster Place, W.C.2.

TABLET Machines, Mixers, etc., Cosmetic Equipment required. Top Prices Paid. 381/928, London Office of this Paper.

WANTED by England's largest Photographie Dealers. All Miniature Cameras, extra lenses and accessories, Rolleiflex, Leica, Contax, Ikontas, etc., also films for Leica, etc. Will buy quotas. Wallace Heaton, Ltd., 127 New Bond Street, W.1.

WANTED Gardner's Patent "Rapid" Steam Heated Dryer, capacity about 60 or 100 lb. Lowest price and full particulars to 384/117, London Office of this Paper.

WANTED. Stearic Acid, Cora Alb, 1 oz. and 2 oz. Screw Capped Jars. Any quantities taken. Good prices offered. R. and C., 100 Cricklewood Broadway, N.W.2.

WHOLESALE wants to purchase quantities of Dressing Combs and Lipsticks. Write 383/988, London Office of this Paper.

500,000 Full Strength Saccharins Tablets. Bulk or packed in 100's. £220 cash. CDB/621, London Office of this Paper.

MISCELLANEOUS

NEWCASTLE Co-operative Society, Ltd., 117 Newgate Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1. Buyer for the Society's Drug Departments will be in London on or about July 23. Will any individual or firm anxious to do business please send full particulars to the Superintendent Chemist and Buyer, at the above address.

WE will deliver per return 2,000 full-strength Saccharin Tablets in exchange for each 7 lb. Sacch. Lact. dispatched carriage paid. Replies only (not goods) to be sent to "Tabellae," CDB/577, London Office of this Paper.

SECOND-HAND Microscopes. A large selection; instruments for all purposes; best makers, faultless condition. 3d. stamp for list. Chards, Specialists, Forest Hill, London, S.E.23

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

MANUFACTURERS able to undertake Boiling and Mixing of 5 to 10 tons of material per week as running contract should apply to Fubex, Ltd., 22 High Street, Kingston. Telephone: Kingston 5622.

EDUCATIONAL

FOR Personal Practical Tuition and Correspondence Tuition in Optics and Sight Testing, etc. Apply, C. V. BOLTON, F.S.M.C., F.I.O., 1 LORD STREET, LEIGH, LANCs. TEL.: 527.

WAR-TIME UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATIONS WANTED

The advertisements in this section are inserted free and are from advertisers who have lost their employment as a direct result of the war. Prospective employers are requested to give them special consideration.

Advertisers in this Section should advise us immediately employment has been secured.

RETAIL

ELDERLY, qualified, married, needs berth in reasonable area, owing to enemy action. "Pill," 134 Inchmery Road, Catford, S.E.6.

EXPERIENCED Unqualified Lady Dispenser Assistant requires situation in Chemist shop or with doctor. Good references obtainable. CDB/609, London Office of this Paper.

MANAGER (Drug Storeroom), senior experienced man; disengaged through enemy action; satisfactory references. CDB/592, London Office of this Paper.

REPRESENTATIVE (Liverpool and North of England, North Wales). Good connexion, medical men, hospitals and nursing homes. Drugs, sundries, insts., toilets. "W.P.R.," 29 Crescent Road, Southport.

UNQUALIFIED (60), many years' first-class Rivington experience, having lost everything in France, seeks permanent, preferably in country not too far from town. CDB/568, London Office of this Paper.

UNQUALIFIED, 35 years' experience, seeks employment as Assistant and Dispenser. CDB/571, London Office of this Paper.

WHOLESALE

IRE and N. IRELAND. Well known Representatives with large and influential connexion in these territories seeks engagement (previous firm's premises destroyed enemy action). Good worker, excellent references. Write CDB/575, London Office of this Paper.

LATE NEWS

Trading with the Enemy.—The Board of Trade has made a new Order, which came into force on July 10, containing 229 additions to the "black list" of traders in neutral countries with whom it is unlawful to have dealings of any kind. The Order is published by H.M. Stationery Office under the title of the Trading with the Enemy (Specified Persons) (Amendment) (No. 10) Order, 1941, (Statutory Rules and Orders, 1941, No. 941). Price 2d.

National Health Insurance.—The National Health Insurance Contributory Pensions and Workmen's Compensation Bill was introduced in the House of Commons on July 9 by the Minister of Health. This measure gives effect to the Government's intention—announced in May—to increase by 3s. a week sickness and disablement benefits under the National Health Insurance Acts; to extend health and pensions insurance for non-manual workers from the present income limit of £250 to £420 a year; and to bring within the scope of the Workmen's Compensation Act non-manual workers earning between £350 (the present limit) and £420 a year. The increased insurance benefits will operate from January 1942.

Amalgamated Dental Company, Ltd.—A statement issued to shareholders by Mr. E. Russell Polden (chairman), with the report and accounts, records that stock is increased by approximately £38,000; sundry debtors are reduced by £42,000; cash is lower by £5,000, though investments in British Government stocks have increased about £30,000. Amounts owing by subsidiary companies are lower by £23,000. Sundry creditors are down by £40,000, and the credit to profit and loss is higher by £33,000. Profit from trading, etc., is £192,153, against £163,668, an improvement of £28,485. After providing for taxation and dividend of 5½ per cent., less tax, on Preference stock, balance available for appropriation is £119,308, against £86,148. The full dividend of 8 per cent., less tax (4 per cent. of which was paid on June 30), absorbs £59,380; and dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, on Deferred Ordinary stock requires £10,000, leaving to be carried forward £49,922, against £26,762 brought in, an increase of £23,161.

MIDLANDS, Eastern Counties Representatives. Very active. Over military age. Car owner. Hundreds of live accounts open amongst chemists, stores, high-class hairdressers. Vacant through enemy action. Excellent reference from late firm. Expenses, commission. "Radsr," St. Moritz, Wellington Road, Mablethorpe, Lincs.

POSITION of Works Manager and Engineer required for a man aged 60 years. Long experience in Factory Output and general control of men and women in perfumery or similar business. Over ten years with well-known perfumery house, North West London preferred. CDB/610, London Office of this Paper.

SOAPS and Cosmetics. Manager, over twenty years own factory, seeks position in any capacity. Good organiser; 43; friendly alien. English references. CDB/591, London Office of this Paper.

THOMAS CHRISTY'S London Representative for 28 years, "Retired." Seeks re-engagement for good house, excellent connexion. Yelland, 3 Christchurch Road, Crouch End, N.8.

BUSINESS WANTED

WANTED Drug Stores, North London, or management of same outside London. Counter experience last 40 years; own business 16 years, until bombed. CDB/573, London Office of this Paper.

ARE YOU UNEMPLOYED AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE WAR? IF SO, READ THIS

In order to assist employees who have lost their employment, either through enemy action or through businesses being closed down in defence areas, a scheme of free advertisements in the "Situations Wanted" column of this Supplement will be available until further notice.

Any such employee of a retail pharmacist, whether qualified or not, or any employee of works producing or distributing products in connexion with the drug and associated industries is invited to make full use of this facility without charge.

Advertisements should be accompanied by particulars of last employment and cause of its termination, and should be addressed to The Publisher, The Chemist and Druggist, The Pitman Press, Bath, to arrive not later than WEDNESDAY morning of week of issue.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

The monthly meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, held at Derby on July 1 and 2, was attended by the president (Mr. W. Deacon), the vice-president (Mr. W. S. Howells), the treasurer (Mr. H. W. Wallis), Mrs. J. K. Irvine, Sir Malcolm Delevingne, Sir Walter Langdon-Brown, and Messrs. J. T. Appleton, C. Davis, J. H. Franklin, H. M. Hirst, J. Jack, G. R. Knox Mawer, J. F. McNeal, A. R. Melhuish, L. M. Parry, E. S. Peck, P. F. Rowsell, H. C. Shaw, H. Skinner, F. G. Wells, B. A. Williams, F. C. Wilson and J. C. Young, with the secretary (Mr. H. N. Linstead).

Saccharin Tablets.—A reply was received from the Sugar Controller, Ministry of Food, to a letter from the Society urging the adoption of a standard for saccharin tablets and a disclosure of strength of other saccharin-containing sweetening preparations. The Controller stated that he was forwarding the letter to the Board of Trade and that it had arrived opportunely as he was already in communication with the Board of Trade suggesting that action was urgently required with (among others) the objects of standardising the quality of saccharin tablets and possibly the prohibiting of the manufacture of sweeteners containing saccharin.

Planning Committee.—The Council constituted themselves as a Committee for the purpose of considering plans for dealing with questions which would arise upon the conclusion of hostilities, and to meet monthly to transact the business of the Committee on the Monday evening preceding the Council meeting.

Emergency Medical Service.—The minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Pharmacists of the London Sectors, held on June 18, were received. The meeting was called to deal with the staff problem arising from the impending call-up of pharmacists for military service, and a course of action to be followed in dealing with the matter was adopted.

"Pharmaceutical Journal" Advertisements.—The following resolution was passed and referred to the Publications Committee with a request that the Committee consider and report to the next meeting upon the arrangements necessary to give effect to it: "That no further advertisements be accepted by the 'Pharmaceutical Journal' which by implication or other means offer, for goods in short supply, prices in excess of those normally paid by the trade."

Opening of New Pharmacies.—A letter was received from the Chester Branch containing a resolution stating that the Branch viewed with grave concern the opening of new pharmacies during a time of national stress when existing businesses have been or are likely to be closed due to the calling up of pharmacists for military service and requesting the Society to take up the matter rigorously with the Government. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Liaison Committee of the Society and the National Pharmaceutical Union.

Pharmacy and Medicines Bill.—The Council considered this Bill and passed the following resolution:—

(a) That the Council regret that legislation of this importance should have been introduced in time of war.

(b) That the Council recognise that in present political circumstances opposition would be ineffective.

(c) That the Council, while not opposing the second reading, will use every means in their power to secure the incorporation in the Bill of amendments on the following lines:—

1. In Clause 1 (1) (a) the recasting of the clause to indicate that not more than an incidental part of the business shall be constituted by the retail sale of drugs and medical and surgical appliances.

2. In Clause 1 (1) (d) the extension of the prohibition of dispensing to all prescriptions, whether or not given by medical practitioners.

3. In Clause 1 (1) (e) the inclusion of "carboids" and "pestles and mortars" as specific examples of prohibited emblems. In the same clause the prohibition of words implying that the premises are registered with the Pharmaceutical Society.

4. In Clause 3 the prohibition of advertisements based upon an appeal to fear.

5. In Clause 6 the declaration of composition to be by means of accepted scientific names.

6. In Clause 6 the proviso to be limited to prescriptions of doctors, dentists and authorised sellers of poisons.

7. In Clause 6 (3) to extend the time for disposing of stock without disclosure on the label to 1943.

These amendments are in addition to those agreed at the Conference held on June 24 at the offices of the N.P.U. Certain other drafting amendments were also agreed.

(d) That the Council urge upon the Government that amendments altering the Bill to the detriment of pharmacists should be rejected.

(e) That the Council offer to the Government the enforcement machinery of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933, for the purposes of the enforcement of sections 3 to 7 of the Act.

Congratulations to the President.—Reference was made by the VICE-PRESIDENT to the fact that in the King's Birthday Honours List the president was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire. MR. HOWELLS said Mr. Deacon had during the past few years put in some very hard work, with tremendous energy and enthusiasm behind it, in the interests of pharmacy, and he had also done a lot of public work in other directions. The honour was to some extent reflected on pharmacy as a whole, and on behalf of the Council he offered the president sincere and hearty congratulations. These were endorsed by MR. MELHUSH and MR. WELLS, the former of whom remarked that the distinction was also a recognition of the centenary of the Society, which was in effect a department of the Civil Service. THE PRESIDENT gratefully acknowledged the congratulations.

Biology Failures.—An inquiry had been held by a subcommittee of the Education Committee into the cause of what was considered by Sir William Willcox, Government inspector, to be a high percentage of failures in biology. MR. ROWSELL, chairman of the Committee, said that while the number was rather above that in comparable examinations, the position was not so bad as had been reported. Something should be done, however, and the Committee recommended: (1) That a letter be circulated to the schools drawing attention in regard to biology to the need for careful attention being paid to both equipment and staff and pointing out the special attention required to be given by teachers to practical work, and that in addition to the teacher, a demonstrator should be available during the practical periods for every ten students; (2) That the Boards of Examiners for England and Wales and for Scotland be asked to increase the number of questions in both the botany and zoology sections of the biology written paper to ten—five questions in each section—of which the candidate should answer not more than six questions, three in each section; that candidates must attempt one particular question in each section and that this question should be based upon fundamental principles. The Committee also decided that Dr. F. A. Mason, staff inspector at the Board of Education, and Sir William Willcox be advised of the action taken. In regard to notification of results of examinations conducted by the Boards of Examiners for England and Wales and for Scotland, MR. ROWSELL said it was impossible at present to make the announcements synchronise, but the committee had resolved to urge the Board for England and Wales to continue their efforts to present their results at the earliest opportunity.—MR. WALLIS thought a delay of three weeks in making the notification was intolerable, and MR. ROWSELL promised to look into the matter further.—The committee's proceedings were confirmed.

Organisation Committee.—This Committee reported that they had decided to advise the branches that any grants which might be made to the War-aid or other funds of a benevolent character from branch funds should be included as a separate item in the branch balance sheet and that no grant would be made to replace money so expended. In regard to honoraria to branch secretaries they were glad to note that except in fifteen cases the work was carried out wholly voluntarily, and they recorded their appreciation of this service. Arrangements made by the Doncaster Branch to advise and assist local pharmacists called up for military service by inviting them to discuss their business difficulties with a committee appointed by the branch had been noted with interest, but it was thought unnecessary to take any further steps in the matter. The Committee also noted with interest the arrangements proposed by the Southgate and Wood Green division of the North London Pharmaceutical Association for mutual assistance of pharmacists in the area in the event of war damage to their pharmacies.—The report was adopted after MR. YOUNG had cited a case showing the value of the North London scheme and suggested that the example should be followed in other districts.

Poison Antidotes.—The Law Committee had considered the following resolution passed by the Newcastle and Northumberland Branch: "That it is the opinion of this Branch that many attempted suicides might be saved in time if the antidote to the poison used was clearly printed on the label, and the Branch hopes that at a convenient opportunity the Society will make the necessary regulations." Reporting that the Committee regarded the suggestion as impracticable, MR. JACK (chairman) pointed out that the Poisons Board had taken no action in the matter. The minutes were approved.

Economic Condition of Pharmacy.—A memorandum on the subject of the effect of war-time developments on the economic position of pharmacy had been discussed by the Public Services Committee, who ordered copies thereof to be sent to the National Pharmaceutical Union and the Wholesale Drug Trade Association for consideration with a view of subsequent joint consultation between them and the Society to decide what steps should be taken to give effect to it. MR. PECK, chairman of the Committee, said other traders were trying to make good a falling off in their businesses by retailing medicinal preparations. Pharmacists were willing to share the sacrifices which war involved, but they were faced with the possibility of their income being so reduced as to entail great hardship, and it was proposed to ask the Government to take steps to forestall what threatened to become a serious impairment of the pharmaceutical service.—The Committee's proceedings were confirmed.

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, July 15

CROSBY PHARMACISTS' ASSOCIATION, Waterloo House, Crosby Road South, Waterloo, at 8 p.m. MR. A. E. JONES (Food Contamination Officer) on "Food and Chemical Warfare."

Wednesday, July 16

BIRMINGHAM PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, Sutton Park, at 3.30 p.m., Picnic Tea Party. Train leaves New Street at 1.8 p.m.; the Midland Red Service No. 101 runs from New Street at 1.35 p.m., 2.35 p.m. and 3.35 p.m. Owing to catering difficulties members are asked to provide their own refreshments.

Thursday, July 17

WEST HAM AND EASTERN DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF PHARMACISTS, summer outing to Whipnade. Coach leaves Stratford at 1.45 p.m. prompt. Tickets ros. 6d. (inclusive).

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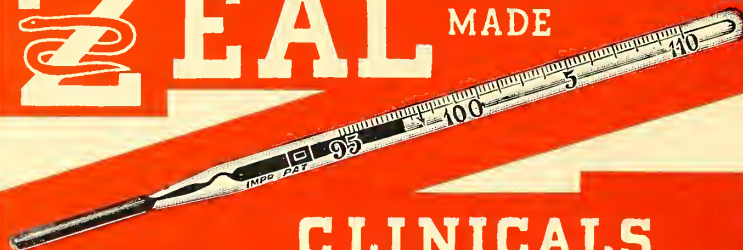
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